

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box ☐PTO/SB/05 (4/98)
Approved for use through 09/30/2000 OMB 0651-0032
Patent and Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number

UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL

Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

Attorney Docket No. 6040/77752

First Inventor or Application Identifier Fogelson et al.

Title BUILDERS ON-LINE ASSISTANT

Express Mail Label No. EL432087605US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 202311. ☒ *Fee Transmittal Form (e.g. PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)5. ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)2. ☒ Specification (preferred arrangement set forth below) Total Pages 416. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)

- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure

- a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
- c. ☐ Statement verifying identify of above copies

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) Total Sheets 34

4. Oath or Declaration (unexecuted)

Total Pages 3

- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
- i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting
inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

*NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- 7. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- 8. ☐ 37. C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
- 9. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- 10. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
- 11. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
- 12. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
- 13. ☒ *Small Entity Statement(s) (PTO/SB/09-12) ☐ Statement filed in Prior application, Status still proper and desired
- 14. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
- 15. ☒ Other: Appendix I (Attached)

16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-In-Part (CIP) Of prior application No.: _____ / _____

Prior application information: Examiner _____ Group/Art Unit: _____
FOR CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS ONLY, The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declarations supplied Under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by Reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label or ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	Jon P. Christensen		
	WELSH & KATZ, LTD.		
Address	120 S. Riverside Plaza		
	22 nd Floor		
City	Chicago	State	Illinois
Country	USA	Telephone	(312) 655-1500
		Zip Code	60606
		Fax	(312) 655-1501
Name Print/Type	Jon P. Christensen	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	34,137
Signature		Date	01/12/2000

Burden Hour Statement This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Office, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, DC 20231

Applicant or Patentee: Fogelson et al.
Serial or Patent No.: Not yet assigned
Filed or Issued: January 14, 2000
For: BUILDERS ON-LINE ASSISTANT

Atty Docket No. 6040/77752

VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS

(37 CFR 1.9(f) AND 1.27(b) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention entitled:

BUILDERS ON-LINE ASSISTANT

described in:

- (☒) the specification filed herewith.
(☐) application serial no. _____, filed _____.
(☐) Patent No. _____, issued _____.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, or am under an obligation under contract or under law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention, is listed below:

- (☒) no such person, concern, or organization.
(☐) person, concerns, or organizations listed below.*

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

FULL NAME Bruce A. Fogelson
ADDRESS 2501 N. Lincoln Avenue, Suite 225, Chicago, IL 60614
(☒) INDIVIDUAL (☐) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN (☐) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF INVENTOR Bruce A. Fogelson

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR _____

DATE _____

I hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original as submitted with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patent, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date.

1/15/02 VOLANDA ESTIM
Date
Express Mail Label No.
EL432087605 US

77752

BUILDERS ON-LINE ASSISTANT

5

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to the construction industry and more particularly to methods of coordinating, displaying, processing and expediting selection processes of building options.

10

Background of the Invention

Construction is a very detail-oriented industry. Often a buyer (customer) and builder or general contractor (GC) will meet many times to explore, select and negotiate overall scope and terms of a construction project. Often the only basis that a builder (GC) may have for quoting a price is a vague set of architectural drawings (layouts) and a general "sense" of what the customer desires. In such cases, the builder may estimate the cost of "fitting out" a building based upon past experience or upon local trade craft for "typical" or "standards".

In the case of residential construction, a myriad of standard or above standard choices faces the customer once a contract has been signed. Often a builder will provide a number of options with regard to overall house design and functionality. Some options may relate to room and/or kitchen layout. A number of mechanical system options, such as heating and cooling, may also be provided. Basement (either finished or unfinished) or crawl space or extra large garages may be available. Each option (or package of options)

usually has its own advantages and disadvantages that may appeal to one customer over another.

Once the overall layout and functionality of a house is complete, the selection process may become even more involved. Design preferences such as floor coverings must be selected, kitchen and bathroom designs must be finalized. The customer must decide what color to paint the walls or whether wallpaper is a better choice.

The finalization of kitchen design is an especially complex process of integrating the various parts of design, products and "hook-up" of water, electric services, etc. Kitchen cabinets must be selected from any of a number of confusingly similar quantity, quality and feature options. Countertops, sinks and faucets must be coordinated to fit and function. Provision must be made for built-in appliances. Water, sewer and electric connections must be considered for each option. After cabinets have been selected, appliances may be ordered to conform to the overall design, or visa versa.

Bathroom choices are equally complex. Fixtures such as sinks, toilets, tubs and faucets must be selected. If the bathroom is to be tiled, then a type and color(s) must be selected to conform to the other choices.

Usually a builder provides an allowance for each option. The cheapest (or most popular) option may be included in the overall construction price. Where another option is selected, the customer may incur an additional charge or receive credit against the construction price, which must be included in

calculations regarding credit, product installations and profit.

While builders are usually able to track the customer selection process, the process requires
5 countless hours on the part of the builder and customer in presenting options and recording choices made by the customer. Further, no true "retail" outlet exists for these, essentially sub-trade industry products (i.e., faucets are available at plumbing supply showrooms,
10 doors and trim at lumber yards, appliances at appliance stores. Likewise, there are varied industry and non-trade pricing that apply to these industry products.

Where the customer and builder have busy schedules, choices are often not made in a timely
15 manner. Further, the Statute of Frauds requires a written note or memorandum (e.g., a signed contract, change order, etc.). Accordingly, a need exists for a means of facilitating the presentation and documentation process of products, services and
20 processes of the construction industry.

Summary

A method and apparatus are provided for servicing a customer of a contractor by a third-party website
25 provider. The method includes the steps of providing a website by the third-party website provider for use by the customer in selecting product options for product offerings provided by the contractor or vendor, receiving from the customer through the website a
30 selection of an option of the options provided by the contractor or third-party manufacturers and collecting a fee or commission based upon the received selection

made by the customer and/or an advertising revenue for the "pass through" of options at such point of purchase.

5 Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system for servicing a customer of a builder in accordance with an illustrated embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a screen of a webpage that may be viewed
10 through the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a screen of a webpage of a builder that may be viewed through the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a screen showing a model of a home that may be offered by the builder using the system of FIG.
15 1;

FIG. 5 depicts a subdivision that may be marketed using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 depicts a purchase offer that may be made to a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 7 depicts a sign-on screen that may be used
20 by a customer or builder of FIG. 1;

FIG. 8 depicts a screen that may be viewed by a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 9 depicts a list of purchase offers that may
25 be viewed by a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 10 depicts a particular purchase offer that may be viewed by the builder using the system of FIG.
1;

FIG. 11 depicts a virtual showroom that may be
30 visited by a customer of a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 12 depicts an options selection screen that may used by a customer of a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 13 depicts a more detailed options selection
5 screen that may used by a customer of a builder using the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 14 depicts a showroom that may be used by customers of the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 15 depicts hyperlinks that may be used by the
10 system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 16 provides a high level overview of website use of the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 17 depicts builder logon and use of the builders website of FIG. 1;

FIG. 18 depicts a new user setup screen of the
15 system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 19 depicts a new user logon to the system of FIG. 1;

FIG. 20 depicts logon to the system of FIG. 1 by
20 an existing user;

FIG. 21 depicts an options selection screen of the system of FIG. 1; and

FIG. 22 depicts an options selection screen used by the customer of FIG. 1.

Appendix I is a series of screens that a visitor
25 to the system 10 may view in succession.

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

The market for the system provided herein is, for
30 example, the over 65,000 builder-members of the Home Builders Association, over 100,000 U.S. builders, the over 1,600,000 new-home starts per year or the millions

of re-sale homes which need home improvements. An average home of about \$200,000 provides a general market volume of over \$300,000,000,000. The "secondary" product market of new-home starts is referred to as "standards and extras". Typically, some selections are referred to as standards and offered at no additional cost such as predefined grades of carpet, counter tops, cabinet, and some basic fixture colors. Standards are generally base grade and thus extras become a significant cost to buyers and a profit center to builders. These secondary extras often run from 1% to 20% or more of the original house price. This sub-market (at even 10% of the overall market) amounts to \$30,000,000,000.

It is not unreasonable to state that one of the most frustrating parts of the buyer/builder relationship is: 1) the standards and extras selection process and 2) the contract and administration process. Standards are standard options provided at no additional cost by the builder. Extras are at extra cost. The standards and extras selection process has no industry standards. Furthermore, buyers, (who feel stressed by the purchase anyway) often feel as though they are a "captive market" to their builder's pricing and selections, since they have no other "market" for shopping or comparing.

Likewise, builders (already at the mercy of their sub-trades and their vendors and having enough difficulty coordinating the overall process of home construction on a fixed schedule) have trouble translating their buyer's "dream home" into product, pricing and coordination. This is particularly

difficult due to the broadly varied products to select and coordinate deliver from since no "hub" exists from which both builder and buyer can both select products. In fact, many products have no retail availability
5 except from manufacture to trade-person.

Buyer's are often restricted to builders' job-site show rooms and sales centers (if any) and builders' sales people. The show rooms and sales centers often have limited product information, limited hours, and
10 offer little assistance in "shopping" outside their builders' showroom. Often buyers want to see standard options and extras before signing the home buying contract, which builders view as difficult and a waste of time until the larger contract is executed. This
15 leads them to the builders' selections center that is often ill-kept and not well "merchandised". Most builders build the selections center as a small part of a temporary sales office located on-site or simply maintain a library of industry catalogs and brochures.

20 The contract process can be just as hard on both buyer and seller (i.e., the builder/GC). There is no standard contract (unlike the typical local realtor contracts for existing homes). Buyer and seller often rely on lawyers to negotiate both broad and fine points
25 from scratch. Once executed, the complex language in the contracts is normally intimidating rather than serving as a help in instructing the buyer on how to proceed toward options selections and closing. Often the contracts are burdened by references to such
30 disasters (e.g., fire, flood, strikes, etc.) as to discourage the buyer from executing the contract.

Builder's brochures (or web sites) offer such sales messages to buyers as to: 1) the home façade and layout; 2) the location and 3) the builder. However, they do not do much to address the standards/extras or the contract. These are left as subsequent hurdles. Builders spend thousands on sales centers whose primary focus is, again, the home design, layout, façade, lot, room dimensions, the location and the builder. The only other place buyers can look at products is a local retailer (e.g., Sears, Best Buy, Home Depot, etc.). However, the local retailer is not focused on sales to the sub-contractor and not to the buyer-builder relationship.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a system 12 which substantially addresses these problems. The system 12 may be operated by a third party website provider on one or more central processing units (CPUs) 12 and databases (DBs) 11. Under the illustrated embodiment, one or more interactive websites 14, 16, 18 are provided by the CPU 12 for the benefit of customers 22, 24, contractors (e.g., builders) 26, suppliers 28 and manufacturers 30. The websites 14, 16, 18 are interactive (in addition to the normal sense of being interactive to website users) in that information entered through one website may be made available to and be used by a user of another website (as described below). Further, it should be understood that while customers 22, 24 may be considered customers in the normal sense of the word, a contractor 26 or supplier 27, 28 may also be a customer in another sense, as described hereunder. As used herein, a contractor is

defined as any person who sells a tangible product and who also physically installs that product.

The system 12 of FIG. 1 is shown with a single contractor 26, a number of customers 22, 24, a number of suppliers 27, 28 and a number of manufacturers 30, 31. The illustrated embodiment, in fact, will be described primarily in the context of the interaction between the single contractor 26 and his customers 22, 24 and suppliers 27, 28 and between the customers 22, 24 and manufacturers 30, 31. It should be understood, however, that the system 12 may have many such contractors 26, each with its own customers 22, 24 and suppliers 27, 28. Further, the customers 22, 24 and suppliers 27, 28 may simultaneously deal with many different contractors 26 through the system 12. Manufacturers 30, 31 may deal with many different customers 22, 24 of many different contractors 26.

A contractor 26 may maintain one or more webpages 34 on a first website 16 for the benefit of customers 22, 24. The various screens of the webpages 34 may include product offerings relating to many different product spaces as well as standards and options available to buyers (e.g., customers 22, 24). The webpages 34 may also include product offering contracts that may be downloaded by customers 22, 24. FIG. 16 provides a high level overview of activities that may be accomplished by a customer 22, 24 and contractor through the website 16.

As used herein, a product space is the physical space within which the product is to be installed. A product offering includes the product as well as the installation of the product in its product space. In

the context of new home construction, the product space may be a bathroom, a bedroom or the lot where a house (the product) is to be built.

Further, a product offering on the first website
5 16 may be a mix and match of various levels of product offerings. For example, a first contractor 26 ("A") may have a product offering that may be an integration of the various product offerings which are together commonly referred to as a home.

10 A second contractor 26 ("B") may specialize in a particular type of bathroom. The second contractor B (on a first level) may be a subcontractor of the first contractor A. A bathroom by B may be included by A in A's overall product offering. As such, a bathroom by B
15 is one of A's product offerings. However, both A and B may both maintain webpages 34 on the builders website 16. In fact, A and B may have webpages customized by each builder 26 for the precise needs of the product offering of the builder 26.

20 The maintenance of separate webpages 34 by both A and B benefit both A and B. For example, if A includes B as a product offering, then A may simply list B as a product offering and allow a customer 22, 24 to visit B's website to obtain information about the offering.
25 Further, the customer 22, 24 may also want to visit builder C and D to view other product offerings for bathrooms.

The second website 14 may be accessed primarily by customers 22, 24. Customers 22, 24 may open password
30 protected, personal webpages 32 based upon a request transmitted to the CPU 12. The webpage 32 may be used to display information contained within a customer file

42 stored in the database 11. The file 42 may be used
by a customer 22, 24 as a personal repository of
information from the contractor's website 16 either as
a potential or as an actual customer of the contractor
5 26.

The third website 18 may be marketed to the
general public and may be accessed by any customer 22,
24 or member of the general public. The third website
18 may be designed similar to a retail store for on-
10 line purchases and project coordination of builder-
rehabber products. The third website 18 is intended to
feature projects and pricing directed to capital
improvements. As such, the third website 18 provides a
retail-catalog showroom for manufacturers products in a
15 way that will be discussed below in more detail.

Product offerings may be created in any of a
number of ways. A contractor and customer may sit down
and negotiate the terms of a product offering
agreement. The product offering agreement may specify
20 an overall product offering (e.g., a house) with many
included product offerings (e.g., a kitchen, two
bathrooms, etc.).

At least some of the included product offerings
(hereinafter referred to simply as "product offerings")
25 may include choices that must be made by the customer
22, 24. In the case where the product offering is a
bathroom, the standard options may be a choice between
two types of sinks from a particular manufacturer.
Alternatively, the term "standard options" may refer to
30 an allowance (i.e., in dollars) which the contractor
will allow the customer 22, 24 to spend for purchase of
the product associated with the product offering.

Under the illustrated embodiment, each product offering is associated with a category space. In some cases a category space may include several product offerings. For example, in the context of a home, a category space may be a bathroom. One product offering associated with the bathroom may be a sink, another may be faucets on the sink, a third may be a toilet or a tub. Other product offerings may be the color or type of paint that may be applied to the walls or whether tile is installed on the floor.

Under an illustrated embodiment of the invention, each category space is associated with one or more pages of a virtual showroom. Within the showroom, the standard options and extras options may be displayed, either as text or under a pictorial format.

The database 11 is provided with specific information with regard to the products contained within each product offering. The CPU 12 and DB 11 interact to form a relational database that is able to select categories based upon a category space. A menu associated with the virtual showroom allows the CPU 12 to select and organize category cells matching product with category spaces and "drill down" to the essential information for decision making.

Alternatively, the CPU 12 may organize the category cells based upon brand identity (i.e., the name of the manufacture) or based upon stylistic groups (i.e., a Martha Stewart collection). Organization of cells may be altered by the customer 22, 24 based upon entry or selection of key words within an interactive window associated with particular segments of the virtual showroom.

Where product has been identified in advance by the contractor 26, a category cell may include the identified product as a standard option. The category cell may contain other standard options as well as
5 extras options. Where no product has been identified (i.e., the contractor has given the customer an allowance for purchase of a product), the category cell may include hyperlinks to a website 38 of a
10 manufacturer 30 who offers products which fall within the category cell.

To simplify selection of product offerings, a contractor 26 may maintain a list of standard product offerings on his website 16. The information of the standard product offerings may be accessed by customers
15 22, 24 to purchase a product offering or to simply comparison shop among contractors 26.

Following is a detailed example of a product offering set the context of a home purchase. While the detailed example is set into the context of home
20 buying, it should be understood that a product offerings may be set in any context involving the transfer of goods in conjunction with services.

FIGs. 16-22 are flow charts that are specifically related to the methods described above and set in the
25 context of home building. Reference shall be made to FIGs. 16-22 as appropriate to an understanding of the invention.

The customer 22, 24 may access the information of webpage 34 of the builder 26 using either of two
30 possible routes. As a first route, the customer 22, 24 may enter the builder's website 16 through the front door (directly from the customer 22, 24 to the website

16 through the Internet 20) and view product
information and options. The steps of logging-in under
this process may be better understood by reference to
the left side of FIG. 16. The disadvantage of this
5 approach is that the customer 22, 24 does not have
local storage at the website 16.

Alternatively, the customer 22, 24 may access the
webpage 34 of the builder through another door (i.e.,
the back door). Accessing the builder's webpage 34
10 through the back door is accomplished through the
customers website 14. Reference may be made to FIGs.
19 and 20 for a better understanding of the log-in
procedure.

If the customer is a new user, then the user may
15 be asked for a name or other identifying indicia. The
user may also be asked to select and use a password.
Further, as shown in FIG. 19, more than one user may
share a customer file 42. The ability for more than
one user to share a file 42 may be of use when a buyer
20 wishes to share information associated with a home
purchase with another party (e.g., a mother-in-law).

The customer 22, 24 may locate the webpage 34 of
the builder 26 through a local directory of builders
offered through the website 14. Upon locating the
25 webpage 34 of the builder 26, the customer 22, 24 may
review and store information from the builder within
the customer's file 42.

If a customer 22, 24 has not already requested a
personal webpage 32, a webpage 32 may be opened once
30 the customer has reached agreement with the builder 26
as shown in FIG. 18. Once a customer 22, 24 has signed
a building contract, the builder 26 may help the

customer 22, 24 open a customer file 42 in the DB 11
and provide a personalized webpage 32 for the customer
22, 24 on the customers website 14 customized to the
house selected by the customer 22, 24. The customer
5 22, 24 and builder 26 may share passwords for access to
the customer file 42.

If the customer 22, 24 had already opened his own
webpage 32, then the customer 22, 24 may already have
downloaded information (FIG. 20) regarding the selected
10 house to his file 42. In either case, the customer 22,
24 is not required to share use of the file 42 with the
builder 26.

Using the webpage 32, the customer 22, 24 may view
and select standard options and extras for his
15 particular house, which may be stored in the customer
file 42. As the customer 22, 24 selects standard
options and extras through his webpage 32, the builder
26 may review those selections through his website 16,
if he has been given access to the customer file 42.
20 Alternatively, the customer 22, 24 may e-mail a file
containing one or more of the selections to the builder
26.

Under the illustrated embodiment, an owner of the
third-party website provider 12 may receive a
25 commission for processing the selections of each
customer 22, 24. The commission may be a flat fee or
may be percentage of purchases. The details, scope and
situations giving rise to a commission will be
discussed in greater detail below.

30 FIG. 2 depicts a builders directory webpage 50
that may appear on the customer's terminal 22, 24. The
builders directory 50 may be viewed either through the

builders website 16 or though the customers website 14.
As shown, a customer 22, 24 may be offered the
opportunity of viewing webpages 34 of any of a number
of builders. A customer 22, 24 may view a webpage of a
5 particular builder by activating a softkey 52, 54, 56
associated with a selected builder.

FIG. 3 depicts a webpage 60 that may be presented
to the customer 22, 24 based upon activation of a
particular softkey (e.g., 52) of FIG. 2. (Webpage 60
10 is depicted as webpage 34 of FIG. 1 where the customer
22, 24 accesses the website directly through the
builders website 16 or as webpage 32 where the customer
22, 24 accesses the builders information through the
customers website 14.) As shown on the builders
15 webpage 60, the customer 22, 24 may be presented with a
number of product offerings (e.g., house models) 62, 64
offered by that particular builder. As shown, each
model may have a description of each model 68, 74 as
well as a picture of the model 70, 76. Each model may
20 also have a softkey 66, 72 to obtain more information
about the model.

Upon activation of a softkey (e.g., 66) of FIG. 3,
the webpage 78 of FIG. 4 may appear on the customers
terminal 22, 24 showing details of the selected product
25 offering. As shown, floor plans 80, 82, 84 may be
provided of the selected model as well as a list of
standard features (standards) 86. Details of the
standards 86 may be viewed by activation of a
particular feature key 100, 102.

30 Also shown in FIG. 4 is a list of optional
features 88. Shown associated with each feature 104,
106 is a price adder for each feature. Details of the

feature 104, 106 may be obtained by first activating a view detail key 108 and then activating a softkey 104, 106 associated with the feature 104, 106. Activating (e.g., double-clicking on) the feature key 104, 106
5 results in selection of the option 104, 106 for purchase.

Selection of options 88 causes a price window 90 to change based upon the number of options selected. The price shown in price window 90 may be exclusive of
10 the cost of the lot. To select a lot, the customer 22, 24 may activate a select lot key 92.

Upon activating a select lot key 92, the webpage 110 of FIG. 5 may appear. Shown on the webpage 110 may be a subdivision map 112 showing available lots. Also
15 shown, may be a softkey 114, 116, 118 showing a lot number and price associated with each lot.

Upon identifying a suitable lot by activating a softkey 114, 116, 118, the customer 22, 24 may activate a return key 120. Activation of the return key 120 may
20 take the customer 22, 24 back to the previous webpage 78.

By returning to the previous webpage 78, the selected lot may now be identified in a lot window 92 along with a legal description of the lot in another
25 window 94. The total cost of the house may now be displayed in a total price window 95.

Upon reviewing the details the customer 22, 24 may now accept the purchase by activating the purchase softkey 98. In response, the purchase offer webpage
30 122 of FIG. 6 may be presented to the customer 22, 24. Included within the purchase offer webpage 122 may be the home model number 124, the selected options 126,

the legal description of the selected lot 128 and a total price 130.

A buyer's window 132 is presented for entry of identifying information about the customer 22, 24.

5 Within the buyer's window 132, the customer 22, 24 enters his name in a name window 142, address in an address window 144 and telephone number in a phone window 146. The customer 22, 24 is also provided with a credit reference window 148 for entry of credit
10 references as well as an e-mail window 150 for entry of an e-mail address.

A customer file identifier window 152 is also provided in the case where the customer 22, 24 accesses the builders webpage 34 through the customer's website
15 14 and has already established a customer file 42. The identifier of the customer file 42 may be automatically inserted into the identifier window 152 by the CPU 12.

Included on the purchase offer webpage 122 is a required deposit window 134 showing the deposit
20 required to close the deal. Also included in a window 136 where the customer 22, 24 may enter a method of deposit payment.

Once the customer 22, 24 has entered his personal information, the customer 22, 24 may activate a print
25 softkey 138 to print a copy of the product offering contract 122. The information entered into the various boxes 124, 126, 128 130, 132, 134, 146 may be incorporated into the appropriate fields of a real estate contract that the customer 22, 24 may sign and
30 forward to the builder 26. A second, submit purchase offer softkey 140 is also provided to submit an unsigned copy of the offer to the builder. Additional

output forms can be generated in support of the processing of the building order, such as a jobsite copy, purchase order, lender information, etc.

The builder 26 may access offers through a second webpage 35 of the builders website 16. Upon accessing the webpage 35, the screen 142 of FIG. 7 may be presented to the builder 26. As shown, the builder 26 may be required to enter a name and password in a name and password window 144, 146.

Upon entry of a name and password (and verification by the CPU 12, the CPU 12 may present the builder 26 with a menu webpage 150 (FIG. 8). The process of builder access to the website 16 may be better understood by reference to FIG. 17. From the menu webpage 150, the builder 26 may activate a purchase offers softkey 152 and be presented with a list of purchase offers in a purchase offers webpage 160 of FIG. 9.

Within the purchase offers webpage 160, the builder 26 may select purchase offer #1 162 for review. In response, a summary page 170 of FIG. 10 may be provided for review by the builder 26. Contained within the screen 170 may be a window 172 containing the purchase information entered by the customer through screen 122. The builder 26 may review the information and activate either an accept softkey 174 or a reject softkey 176. The builder 26 may conditionally reject the offer until the signed copy of the contract arrives or if the deposit is insufficient.

Upon acceptance of an offer, the CPU 12 first checks to see if the customer 22, 24 has a customer file 42. If the customer 22, 24 does not, the CPU 12

opens a file 42 for the customer 22, 24. In addition,
the CPU 12 retrieves a features and options list from
the builders file 44 and transfers the features and
options list to the customers file 42. Each entry of
5 the features and options list has a field which relates
the feature and option to a product space. The
features and options list represents a list of choices
that a customer 22, 24 may have in the construction of
the purchased home.

10 For example, the features and options list may
include options for standard features and extras.
Standard features options may include bathroom fixtures
that may be chosen between at no extra cost. Extras
options may be options that may available among the
15 upgrades that may have previously selected or may now
be added.

As a final step, the CPU 12 may compose an e-mail
(or printed) message to the customer 22, 24 announcing
acceptance of the offer. If the customer 22, 24 did
20 not previously have a customer file 42, the e-mail
message may identify the file and provide instructions
for accessing the file 42 through the customers website
14. The message may also include general instructions
as to the types of selections which the new home buyer
25 may need to make and a due date for making the
selections.

The e-mail may also include instructions as to how
to transfer selections to the builder 26. The customer
22, 24 may be given the option of sharing a password
30 with the builder allowing the builder 26 to access the
customer's file 42. Alternately, the customer 22, 24

is given the options and instructions of how to e-mail selections to the builder 26.

Following the instructions of the e-mail, the customer 22, 24 may access the customers website 14 and be presented with the virtual showroom options webpage 180 of FIG. 11 based upon the builders features and options list transferred from the builder file 44 to the customer file 42. The process of customer access to the virtual showroom may be better understood by reference to FIG. 22. The entries of the showroom options webpage 180 may be divided by product space (e.g., kitchen 182, living room 184, bath #1 188, bath #2 190, bedroom #1 192, bedroom #2 194, bedroom #3 196) or by overall function (e.g., heating 198, air conditioning 200, house exterior options 202 fireplace 204). Further, some entries (e.g., kitchen 182, baths #1 #2 188, 190) may be accompanied with drawings to further clarify the scope of the optional features.

If the customer 22, 24 where to activate the kitchen softkey 182 of FIG. 11, then the screen 210 of FIG. 12 may be presented to the customer. Included within the screen 210 of FIG. 12 are a set of choices that the customer 22, 24 may have regarding construction of the kitchen.

As a first step, the customer 22, 24 may activate a "view kitchen" softkey 211. In response, a graphical image (FIG. 23) may be presented to the customer 22, 24 providing the customer 22, 24 with the opportunity of viewing a kitchen using standard options or a kitchen with certain extras.

Alternatively, the customer 22, 24 may wish to view a kitchen layout. To view of layout, the customer

22, 24 may activate a layout softkey 213. Upon activation of the layout softkey 213, the customer 22, 24 may be presented with an overhead view (FIG. 24) of the kitchen.

5 After viewing the kitchen, the customer 22, 24 may proceed with the selection of standards and extras. For example, the customer 22, 24 may determine that carpeting may be the best choice of a floor covering for his kitchen. Accordingly, the customer 22, 24 may
10 press the carpet softkey 214.

 In response, the customer 22, 24 may be taken to the carpet selection screen 226 (FIG. 13). The carpet selection screen 226 provides at least two carpet selections 228, 234 at standard options for the
15 customer 22, 24. As such, the customer 22, 24 could select either of the two standard options 228, 234 at no additional cost (as shown by the N/A entry in the PRICE ADDER column).

 Alternatively, the customer 22, 24 may select a
20 better carpet 240 also offered by the builder 26. As shown, the better carpet 240 may be offered at a price adder 242.

 As a further alternative, the customer 22, 24 may choose to select a product offering of a customer wood
25 floor 249 by another contractor 26 (J. Jones). In this case, a different price adder 251 would be included.

 As shown in FIG. 13, selection of a carpet option is not complete by selection of the carpet by itself. Also necessary to complete a carpet selection is a
30 color selection. If the customer 22, 24 were to select the first carpet selection 228, then the customer 22, 24 would have the choice of brown or blue. The

customer 22, 24 would make such a selection by pressing the appropriate soft key 230, 232.

If the customer 22, 24 had selected carpet from the second supplier 234, then the customer 22, 24 may
5 select other colors based upon other softkeys 236, 238. Similarly, if the customer 22, 24 where to select the optional carpet 240 at added cost, then he may select available colors by activation of related softkeys 244, 246.

10 If the customer 22, 24 were not happy with the standard options, the customer 22, 24 may activate hyperlinks 248, 250 to other suppliers (i.e., manufacturers 30) not associated with the builder 26. Purchase of carpet from the other suppliers through
15 hyperlinks 248, 250 may be accomplished using methods well-known in the art.

In another alternative, the customer 22, 24 may choose to select a brand name 223 or stylistic group 224, before making other selections on screen 210. In
20 this case, the manufacturer's of FIG. 13 may be limited to the selection made as opposed to the products preselected by the builder 26.

For example, the customer 22, 24 may first activate the selection of "refrigerator" from the
25 appliances list of FIG. 12 and then brand 223 and/or stylistic group 224. In response, the screen 300 of FIG. 25 may be presented. Within the screen 300, the customer 22, 24 may specify a search criteria for a refrigerator. The customer 22, 24 specify a style
30 criteria 302, a design 304, a price 306, a material 308 and/or color 310.

FIG. 26 shows a possible search criteria that may be selected by the customer 22, 24. Upon completion of the selection of the search criteria, the customer 22, 24 activates the search key 312.

5 Upon activation of the search key 312, the screen 320 (FIG. 27) may be presented showing search results. Shown in the screen 320 may be a number of product options as well as identifying information about those options. Shown along a top of the screen 320 is the
10 search criteria returning those results. Upon reviewing the results, the customer 22, 24 may wish to see more information about the first search result. TO obtain more information, the customer 22, 24 may activate the "see more info" key 322.

15 Activating the more info key 322 may take the customer 22, 24 to the more info screen 330 (FIG. 28) which shows additional detail of the selected product. Upon reviewing the information, the customer 22, 24 may select the option by selecting "add to my cart" 326 or
20 return to the previous screen by activating the search key 332.

As an alternative, one of the search results of screen 320 may have been a hyperlink 328 to the refrigerator manufacturer Sub-Zero. Activation of that
25 hyperlink may take the customer to screen 340 (FIG. 29). From screen 340, the customer 22, 24 may view any of a number of Sub-Zero products by activation of the proper additional hyperlink.

Further, marketing research may indicate that
30 buyers of a particular product or stylistic group (e.g., Martha Stewart) are more likely to purchase other related household items (e.g., baskets, floral

patterns, etc.)). Accordingly, selection of the identified products may also trigger a window asking the customer 22, 24 if he/she also wants to purchase the related item as part of an upselling opportunity.

5 In another alternative, the customer 22, 24 may activate an information softkey 221 and be taken to the screen 225 of FIG. 21. Screen 225 may be used by the customer 22, 24 for purposes of reviewing a current selection, other popular choices or a designer
10 collection.

It should be understood that the CPU 12 of the system 12 tracks use of the hyperlinks 248, 250 and charges a commission on any purchases based upon the use of such hyperlinks 248, 250. Such commission may
15 be charged to the hyperlink destination (e.g., the manufacturer 30) based upon any sale made by the manufacturer 30 to the customer 22, 24.

Returning now to FIG. 12, the customer 22, 24 may proceed through each of the standards and extras making
20 selections as appropriate. If appliances 222 were included in the real estate contract, then the customer 22, 24 would be prompted to make a selection for each included appliance including make and color.

Once options were selected for the kitchen, the
25 customer 22, 24 may return to the menu 180 in FIG. 11 and individually proceed through each selected item 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204 making required selections. While many items would require an explicit selection from the customer 22, 24,
30 some items need not be explicitly chosen by the customer 22, 24. For example, wall color in the contract may have been negotiated to be an off-color

white. In this case, the builder may omit paint color from the builder's features and options list transferred to the customer's file 42.

Once the customer 22, 24 has completed his
5 selections from the features and options list, the customer 22, 24 may activate a selection complete softkey 206. Activation of the selection complete softkey 206 may cause the CPU 12 to compose an e-mail message to the builder 26 summarizing the selections
10 made by the customer 22, 24. Alternatively, where the builder 26 and customer 22, 24, share passwords for the customer file 42, the builder 26 may simply retrieve the selections list directly from the customer file 42.

As an aid to completing the completion of the
15 selection of options a number of reminder features are offered by the system 10. For example, during feature selection from appropriate portion of the showroom (e.g., screen 330, FIG. 28) the customer 22, 24 may review a selection status ledger.

20 To review the selection status ledger, the customer 22, 24 may activate a softkey of selections to be made 344 or selection deadlines 346. Upon activation of the selections to be made softkey 344, the customer 22, 24 may be taken to the screen 350 of
25 FIG. 30.

Shown along the left margin of screen 350 is a graphical status indicator 352 of the selection status. The graphical status indicator 352 may be used as a shortcut into the showroom for unselected product
30 offerings.

For example, the customer 22, 24 may note from the status ledger 350 that the den was not complete. In

response, the customer 22, 24 may select the den 354 and be taken to screen 360.

On screen 360, the den may be highlighted in the left margin 352 as a current location. Further, an indicator 372 may be provided of the feature space to which the selection is to be directed. The screen 360 may also list three options 362, 364, 366, 370. An icon of a camera 368 may be selected for a pictorial view of each option. A selection date 376 may be provided as a deadline for making a selection for the den.

If the customer should select the first option 370 for oak plank for the floor, a current selection column will show an "x" in the "yes" column. The customer 22, 24 may complete the selection by activating the "final selection done" button 374.

Returning to the status ledger 350, the customer 22, 24 may then go to the kitchen to make other selections in this feature space. The customer 22, 24 may go to the kitchen by activating the kitchen icon 354 in the left margin.

In response, the customer 22, 24 may be taken the screen 380 which shows a feature space (e.g., a counter) 372 within which a selection needs to be made. In this case, the customer 22, 24 may activate the more information button to view images 382 of the options.

After making a selection with regard to the counters, the customer 22, 24 may select cabinets 384 for another set of options shown on screen 390 of FIG. 33. Within the cabinets screen 390 a set of images 392, 394, 396, 398, 400 may be provided of the possible cabinet choices are provided.

Once the customer 22, 24 has completed set of selections for the kitchen, the customer 22, 24 may activate the final selection done button 374. Upon activating a final selection button 374, the customer
5 22, 24 may be taken to a selections summary screen 410. Shown on the selections summary screen 410 is a list of current selections as well as a list 416 of the cost of any extras added during the current selection session for the kitchen.

10 Upon reviewing the list 416, the customer 22, 24 may return to selecting items by activating the see selections to made button 344 or see selections by date 346. Alternatively, the customer 22, 24 may send a list of selected items to the builder 26 by activating
15 a message button 412.

Based upon the options list the CPU 12 may compose a number of e-mails to the suppliers 27, 28 of the builder 26 for purposes of placing orders for selected product. One e-mail may be to one or more appliance
20 suppliers 27, 28 for selected appliances. Another e-mail may be a carpet supplier 27, 28. A third e-mail may be to a paint supplier. Another e-mail may be to a mechanical supplier 27, 28 for furnaces and air conditions. Included within each of these e-mails may
25 be a request for an updated price quote as well as a lead time for delivery.

Based upon the response to the request for lead times, the builder 26 may adopt a construction schedule based upon a requested completion date 135 included in
30 the real estate contract. As would be generally understood, a construction schedule is typically based upon a predetermined ordering sequence (e.g., a furnace

would be required before paint, paint would be required before most appliances). Using the predetermined schedule, completion date 135 and lead times provided by the suppliers 27, 28, the CPU 12 would create a
5 building schedule including ordering dates for each of the materials of each of the selected options.

Based upon the entries within the construction schedule, the CPU 12 may identify options which have not been made by the customer 22, 24. Upon identifying
10 those selections not made by the customer, the CPU 12 may notify the builder 26 and customer 22, 24, by e-mail or otherwise of dates and acts necessary to conform to the construction schedule.

As an alternative to automatically forwarding
15 orders to suppliers, the builder 26 may group orders for purposes of obtaining volume discounts. In order to group orders the builder 26 may also periodically print out the grouped orders and physically send the grouped order to a supplier 27, 28 or transmit the
20 grouped orders by e-mail.

Using the builder's terminal 26, the builder may periodically review the construction schedule. Based upon the review, the builder 26 may send message to the customer 22, 24 reminding the customer 22, 24 of
25 deadlines for making selections.

Under another alternate illustrated embodiment, a third website 18 may be provided for a broader array of customers. In this context, a customer may be the originally defined customers 22, 24 as well as the
30 builder 26 or suppliers 27, 28. As each customer 22, 24, 26, 27, 28 accesses the website 18, the webpage 260 may be presented to the customer. Based upon the

customer's needs any of a number of subject matter may be selected for purchase based upon activation of the appropriate softkey 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276.

5 Activation of a softkey (e.g., 262) may take the customer to a furnaces webpage 278 showing a number of furnace options. Information on special types of furnaces may be obtained by selection of the appropriate softkeys 280, 282. Information from
10 specific manufactures may also be obtained by selecting a hyperlink 286, 288 which may take the customer to a website (e.g., 38) of the manufacturer.

 Upon reaching the appropriate webpage, a customer may fill his shopping cart with selected merchandise.
15 As used herein a "shopping cart" is simply file and information gathering and ordering software residing in a terminal of the customer 22, 24, 26, 27, 28 which retains product information of selected merchandise. Upon activation of a softkey on the shopping cart, the
20 ordering software functions to transmit ordering information to the appropriate manufacturer or supplier.

 As above, the owner of the system 12 may receive a commission on any purchases made based upon activation
25 of a selected hyperlink. Further, the owner of the system 12 may receive commissions based upon advertising displayed on the webpages 278 of the product categories.

 Under another alternate illustrated embodiment of
30 the invention, a builder 26 and designer (e.g., supplier 27, 28) may use the builder's website 16 for designing and developing building drawings (e.g., a

5 kitchen design). Under the embodiment, either party
may propose and create a preliminary design concept
using an appropriate graphics software package (e.g.,
Visio) and save the design in a design file. Once a
design file has been created, it may be e-mailed to the
other party. The other party, using the same graphics
package may mark the file up or modify the design and
e-mail the file back to the other party. Once both
parties agree to the design, the builder 26 may convert
10 the graphics file to a webpage using a simple graphics
conversion process (e.g., printing out the Visio design
file and scanning the printout to obtain a html
graphics display that may be mounted on the builder's
webpage 34). The new design may then become the basis
15 of new or additional product offerings of the builder
26.

As a further embodiment of the invention, the
designer may also develop and attach specification
sheets to each design drawing of the Visio file. The
20 specification sheets may be used to specify
product(s)/product offerings to be used in the product
spaces of the design.

Upon converting each design drawing to a html file
for display on a webpage 34, the builder 26 may also
25 associate one or more design spaces with each design
drawing. Product(s)/product offerings from the
specification sheets of the drawing may then be
associated with each design space and incorporated into
the features and options list for the design space.

30 Under another illustrated embodiment of the
invention, file transfer among builders and suppliers
and manufactures may be standardized to a common file

format (e.g., XML). Under the embodiment, the file creator follows a predetermined format for creation of the file. For example, a product identifier may be placed in a first field. The product identifier may be one or more alphanumeric characters which identifies the product as a refrigerator or a bathroom faucet. The product identifier may also be used for product offerings.

An identifier of an originator may be placed in a second field. A product number (model number and serial number, if a manufacturer) may be placed in a third field. Any graphics associated with the product may be placed in further fields.

Under the embodiment, the receiver of such an XML file may be able to universally interpret the file based upon file content. The product type identifies the types of suppliers of such products. The identifier of the originator allows the recipient to then read local source files to determine the types of model number and serial numbers used by the originator, and, ultimately to interpret model and serial numbers included within the remainder of the XML file.

By using the common file format, builders, suppliers, and manufacturers may exchange information without advance knowledge of the source or format of the file. Orders and order confirmations may be exchanged without the intervention of ordering clerks or project schedulers.

A specific embodiment of a method and apparatus for servicing a customer of a builder according to the present invention has been described for the purpose of illustrating the manner in which the invention is made

and used. It should be understood that the
implementation of other variations and modifications of
the invention and its various aspects will be apparent
to one skilled in the art, and that the invention is
5 not limited by the specific embodiments described.
Therefore, it is contemplated to cover the present
invention and any and all modifications, variations, or
equivalents that fall within the true spirit and scope
of the basic underlying principles disclosed and
10 claimed herein.

Claims

1. A method of servicing a customer of a contractor by a third-party website provider, such method comprising the steps of:
- 5 providing a first website by the third-party website provider for use by the customer in selecting product options of product offerings available from or through the contractor;
- receiving from the customer through the first
- 10 website a selection of an option of the options provided by the contractor; and
- collecting a fee or commission based upon the received selection made by the customer.
- 15 2. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 1 further comprising password protecting the first website.
3. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
- 20 as in claim 1 wherein the step of collecting the fee or commission based upon the selection made by the customer further comprises collecting the fee or commission from the contractor.
- 25 4. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 1 wherein the step of providing the first website further comprises providing a webpage associated with a feature offered by the contractor.
- 30 5. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 4 wherein the step of providing the webpage further comprises providing a plurality of options on

the webpage relating to the feature for selection of the option by the customer.

6. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
5 as in claim 5 further comprising providing a plurality of webpages each related to a feature provided by the contractor to the customer.

7. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
10 as in claim 4 further comprising providing a hyperlink to a manufacturer on the webpage for selection by the customer.

8. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
15 as in claim 7 wherein the step of providing the hyperlink further comprises collecting a commission from the manufacturer for any sale based upon activation of the hyperlink.

9. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
20 as in claim 1 further comprising providing a second website associated with the first website by the third-party website provider for entry of information related to the customer by the contractor.

25 10. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 9 wherein the entered information further comprises features.

30 11. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 9 wherein the step of providing the second

website further comprises allowing access to the second website by a party designated by the customer.

12. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
5 as in claim 9 wherein the entered information further comprises an identifier of the customer.

13. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 9 further comprising password protecting
10 the second website.

14. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 1 further comprising displaying an
advertisement of a vendor on the first website.
15

15. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 14 further comprising collecting a
commission from the vendor for displaying the
advertisement.
20

16. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 14 further comprising allowing the
contractor to customize the first website for the
contractor's product offerings.
25

17. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 14 further comprising providing upselling
options to the customer based upon the option selected
by the customer.
30

18. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
as in claim 1 further comprising providing a third

website for access by a general public for general information on features provided by the contractor.

19. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
5 as in claim 1 further comprising exchanging design files between the builder and a third party contracting designer.

20. The method of servicing a customer of a contractor
10 as in claim 1 further comprising exchanging product files among the builder, suppliers and manufactures using a common file format.

21. An apparatus for servicing a customer of a
15 contractor by a third-party website provider, such apparatus comprising:

means for providing a first website by the third-party website provider for use by the customer in selecting product options of product offerings
20 available from the contractor;

means for receiving from the customer through the first website a selection of an option of the options provided by the contractor; and

means for collecting a commission based upon the
25 received selection made by the customer.

22. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 21 further comprising means for password protecting the first website.

23. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 21 wherein the means for

collecting the commission based upon the selection made by the customer further comprises means for collecting the commission from the contractor.

5 24. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 21 wherein the means for providing the first website further comprises means for providing a webpage associated with a feature offered by the contractor.

10

25. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 24 wherein the means for providing the webpage further comprises means for providing a plurality of options on the webpage
15 relating to the feature for selection of the option by the customer.

26. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 25 further comprising means for
20 providing a plurality of webpages each related to a feature provided by the contractor to the customer.

27. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 24 further comprising means for
25 providing a hyperlink to a manufacturer on the webpage for selection by the customer.

28. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 27 wherein the means for
30 providing the hyperlink further comprises means for collecting a commission from the manufacturer for any sale based upon activation of the hyperlink.

29. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 21 further comprising means for providing a second website associated with the first website by the third-party website provider for entry of information related to the customer by the contractor.

30. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 29 wherein the entered information further comprises features.

31. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 29 wherein the entered information further comprises an identifier of the customer.

32. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 29 further comprising means for password protecting the second website.

33. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 21 further comprising means for providing a third website for access by a general public for general information on features provided by the contractor.

34. An apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor by a third-party website provider, such apparatus comprising:

a first website provided by the third-party website provider for use by the customer in selecting

product options of product offerings available from the contractor;

a selection processor receiving from the customer through the first website a selection of an option of the options provided by the contractor; and

a commission processor adapted to collect a commission based upon the received selection made by the customer.

35. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 34 further comprising a password adapted to protect the first website.

36. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 34 wherein the first website further comprises a webpage adapted to provide a feature offered by the contractor.

37. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 36 further comprising a plurality of webpages adapted to provide a plurality of features provided by the contractor to the customer.

38. The apparatus for servicing a customer of a contractor as in claim 34 further comprising a hyperlink to a manufacturer on the webpage for selection by the customer.

Abstract

A method and apparatus are provided for servicing a customer of a contractor by a third-party website provider. The method includes the steps of providing a first website by the third-party website provider for use by the customer in selecting product options for product offerings provided by the contractor, receiving from the customer through the first website a selection of an option of the options provided by the contractor and collecting a commission based upon the received selection made by the customer.

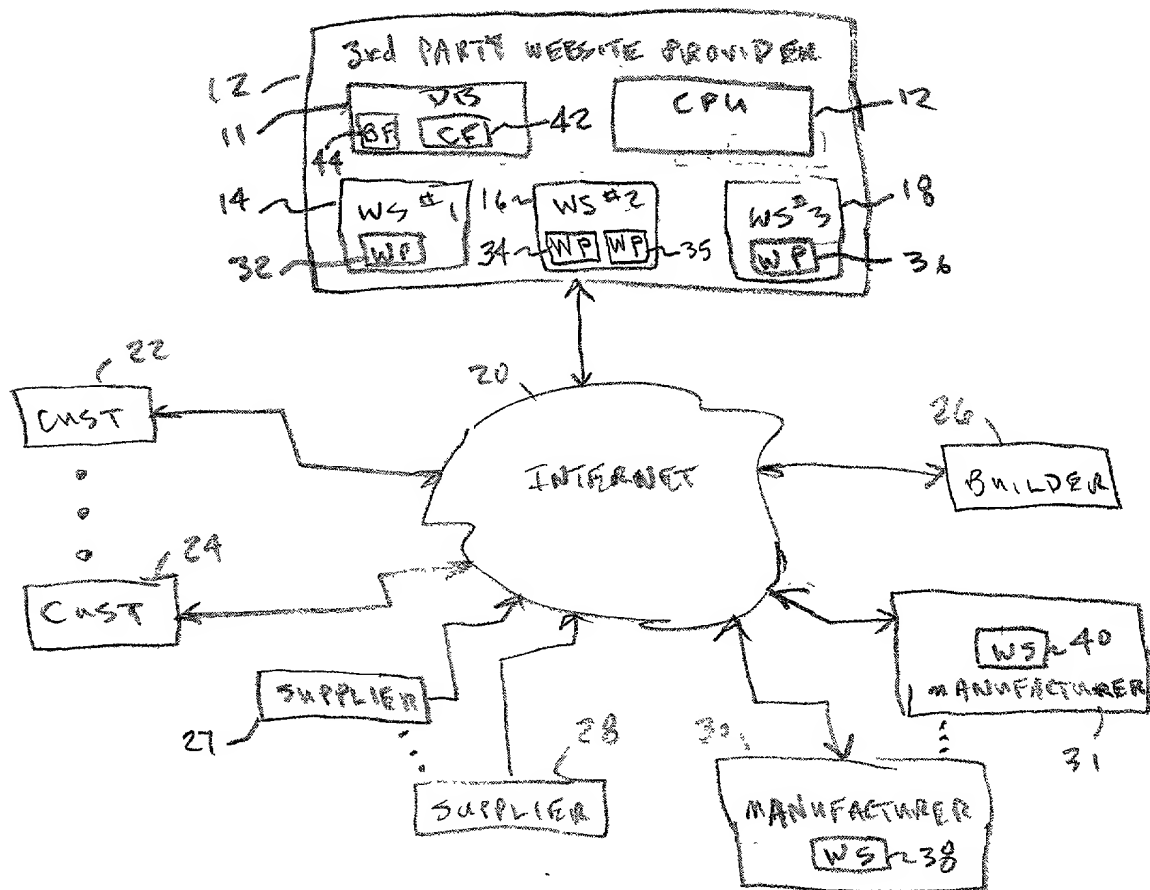


FIG. 1

50

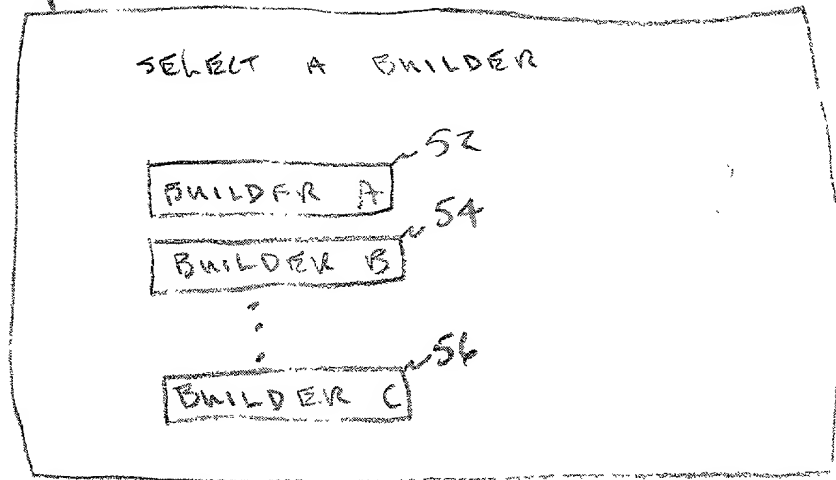


FIG. 2

Copyright © 2000 by Inventor

60

SELECT A MODEL

MODEL A⁶⁶

(BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF MODEL A)⁶⁸

VIEW OF
MODEL A⁷⁰

62

•
•
•

64

MODEL N⁷²

(BRIEF DESCRIPTION
OF MODEL N)⁷⁴

(VIEW OF
MODEL N)⁷⁶

Fig. 3

004430-04400

78

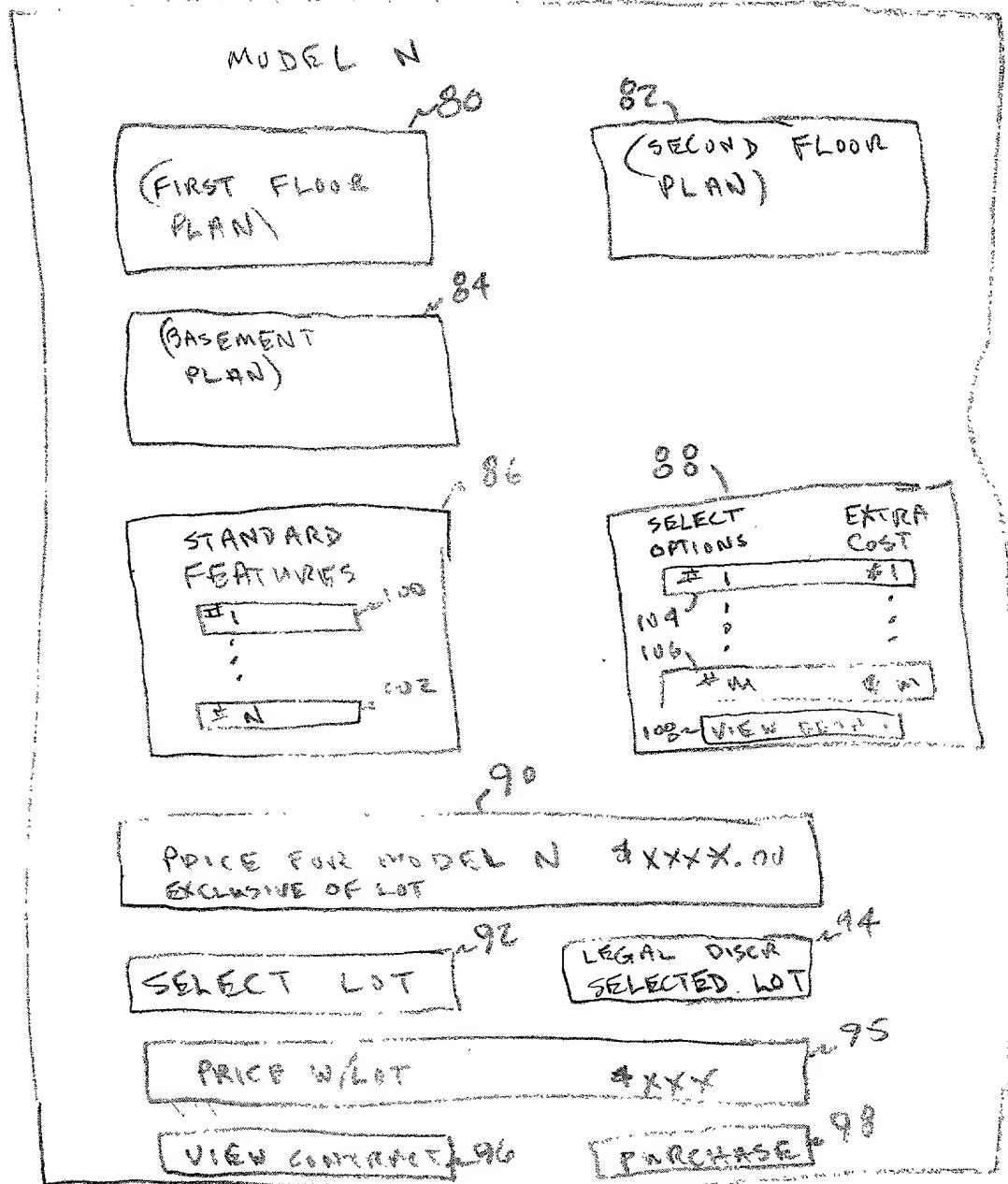


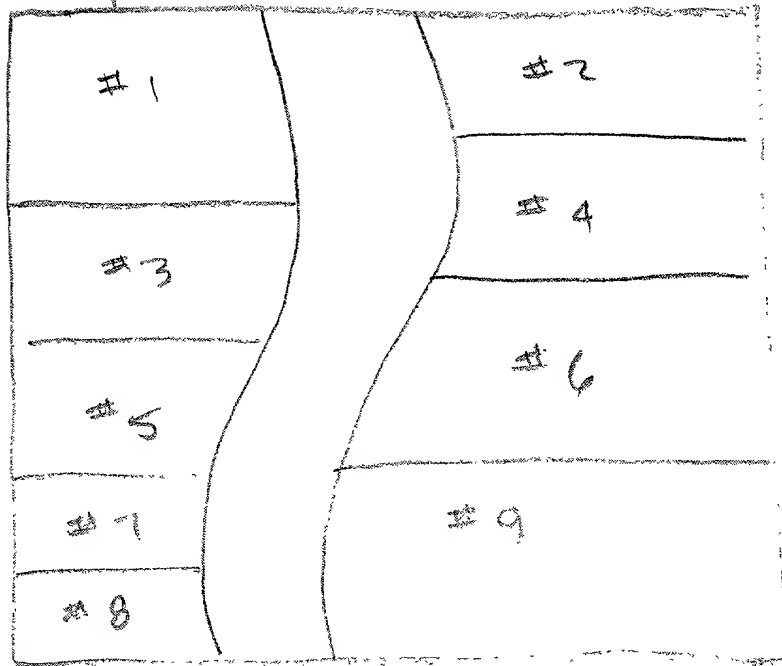
FIG. 4

FIG 5

110,

SUBDIVISION

112



SELECT LOT

PRICE

114 ~ LOT #1 \$

116 ~ LOT #2 \$

...

118 ~ LOT #9 \$

120 ~ RETURN

122

PURCHASE OFFER

12A

MODEL #

126

SELECTED OPTIONS

128

SELECTED LOT

130

TOTAL PRICE

132

BUYER'S INFORMATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

CREDIT REF: _____

150

E-MAIL: _____

CF# _____

134

DEPOSIT REQUIRED \$XXXXX.XX

135

COMPLETION DATE M/Y/D

136

HOW WILL YOU SUBMIT DEPOSIT?

CREDIT CARD NO. _____

CHECK _____

138

PRINT PURCHASE
OFFER

140

SUBMIT PURCHASE
OFFER

142

144

146

148

152

FIG. 6

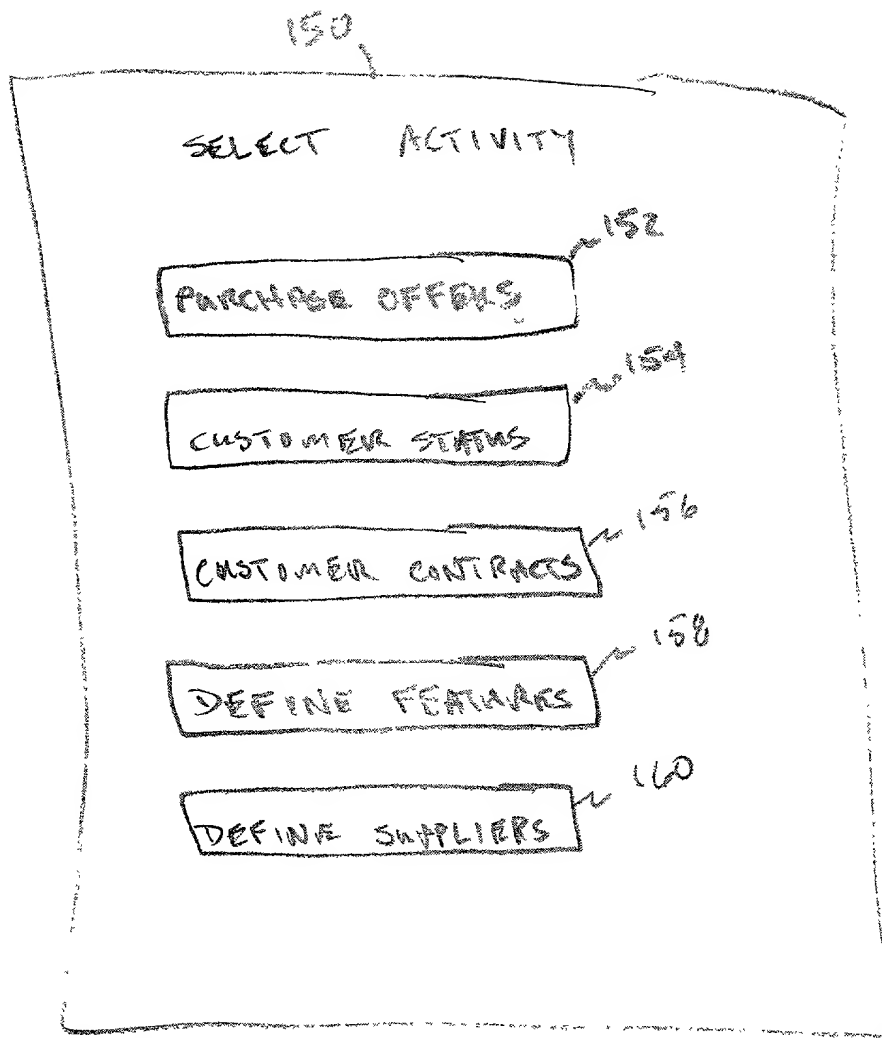
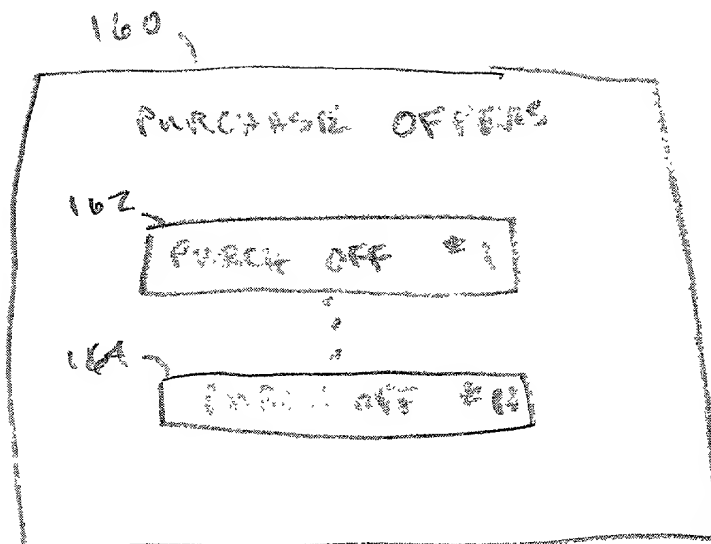


FIG. 8

004770-6468450



2.9

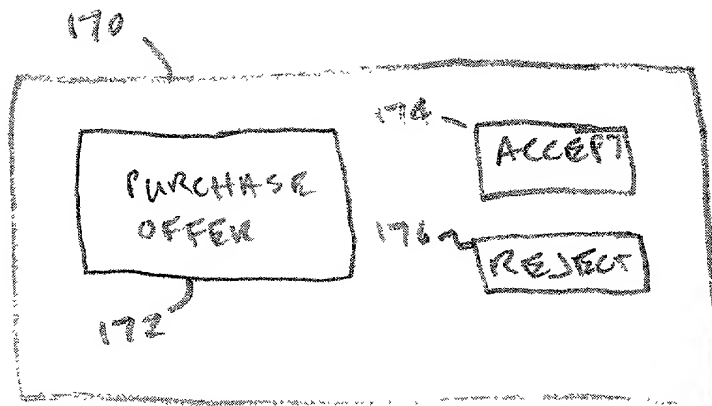


FIG. 10

180

SELECT SHOW ROOM
FOR PRESENTATION
OF OPTIONS

- KITCHEN ~ 182
- LIVING RM ~ 184
- DINING RM ~ 186
- BATH 1 ~ 188
- BATH 2 ~ 190
- BED RM 1 ~ 192
- BED RM 2 ~ 194
- BED RM 3 ~ 196
- HEAT ~ 198
- AC ~ 200
- EXTERIOR ~ 202
- FIRE PLACE ~ 204
- COMPLETE ~ 206

FIG. 11

Rooms info

Kitchen

Standard and Extras

Floor

Wood

Carpet

Tile

Walls

Tile

Paint

Appliance

Dishwasher

Refrigerator

Stove

Oven

Cook Top

Microwave

Cabinets

Exhaust Hood

Switch

Outlets

Lighting

Sink

Faucet

Counter Top

Disposal

Non Standards / Up selling items

Baskets

Pots/Pans

Facial Tissue Holders

Floral

Platters

Silverware

Wall Art

Window Treatment

VIEW KITCHEN

LAYOUT

INFO

SELECT BRAND

1
2
:
N

SELECT STYLISTIC
Brand

1
2
:
N

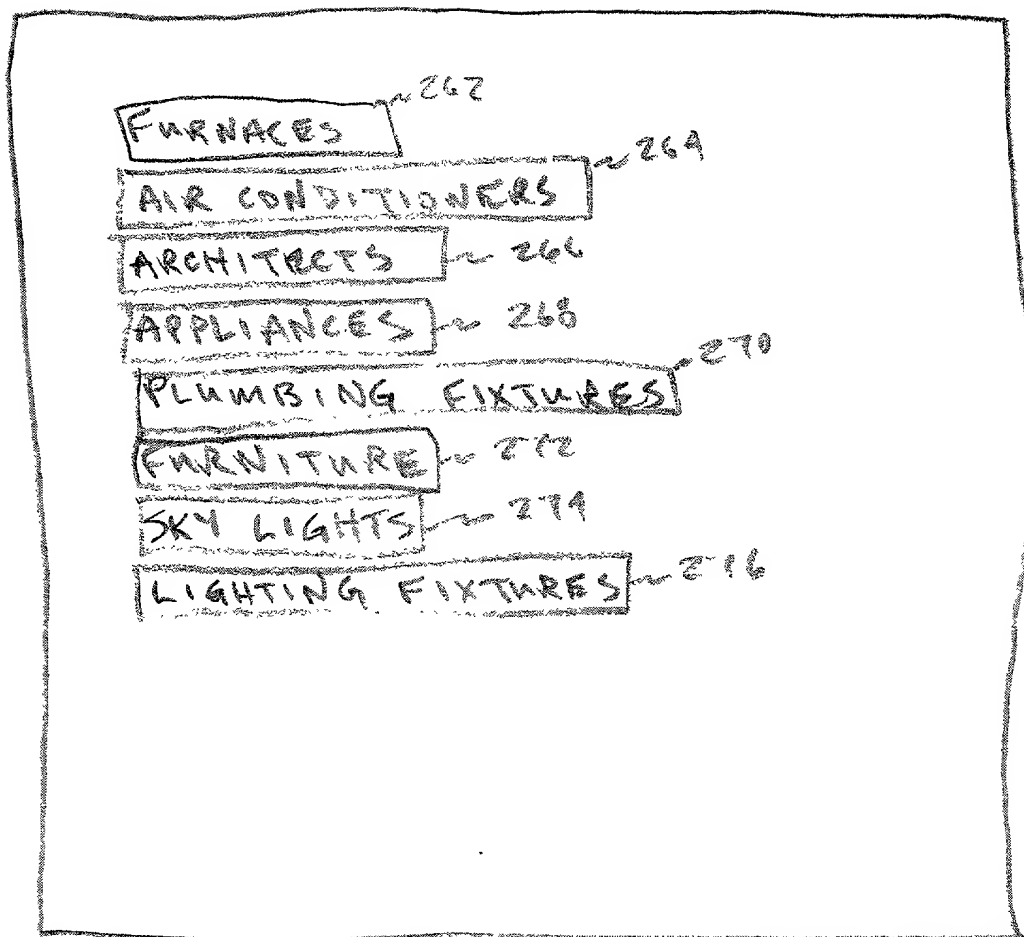
FIG. 12

09483579-01400

		PRICE ADDER
STANDARD FLOOR COVERING		
CARPET - MEDIUM GRADE - Mfg #1, Prod. ID #	228	N/A
BROWN ID	230	
BLUE ID	232	
CARPET - MEDIUM GRADE - Mfg #2, Prod. ID	234	N/A
GREEN ID	236	
BROWN ID	238	
EXTRA		
CARPET - HEAVY DUTY - Mfg #3, Prod. ID	240	242 → \$xxx.yy
MAUVE ID	244	
BROWN ID	246	
CUSTOM WOOD FLOOR BY J. Jones	249	251 → \$yyy.yy
OTHER CARPET SUPPLIER - PRESS HERE	248	
DISCOUNT CARPET PRESS HERE	250	

226

FIG. 13



260

FIG. 14

FURNACES

HIGH EFFICIENCY 280

ECONOMY 282

HIGH OUTPUT 284

MFG. #1 286

MFG. #2 288

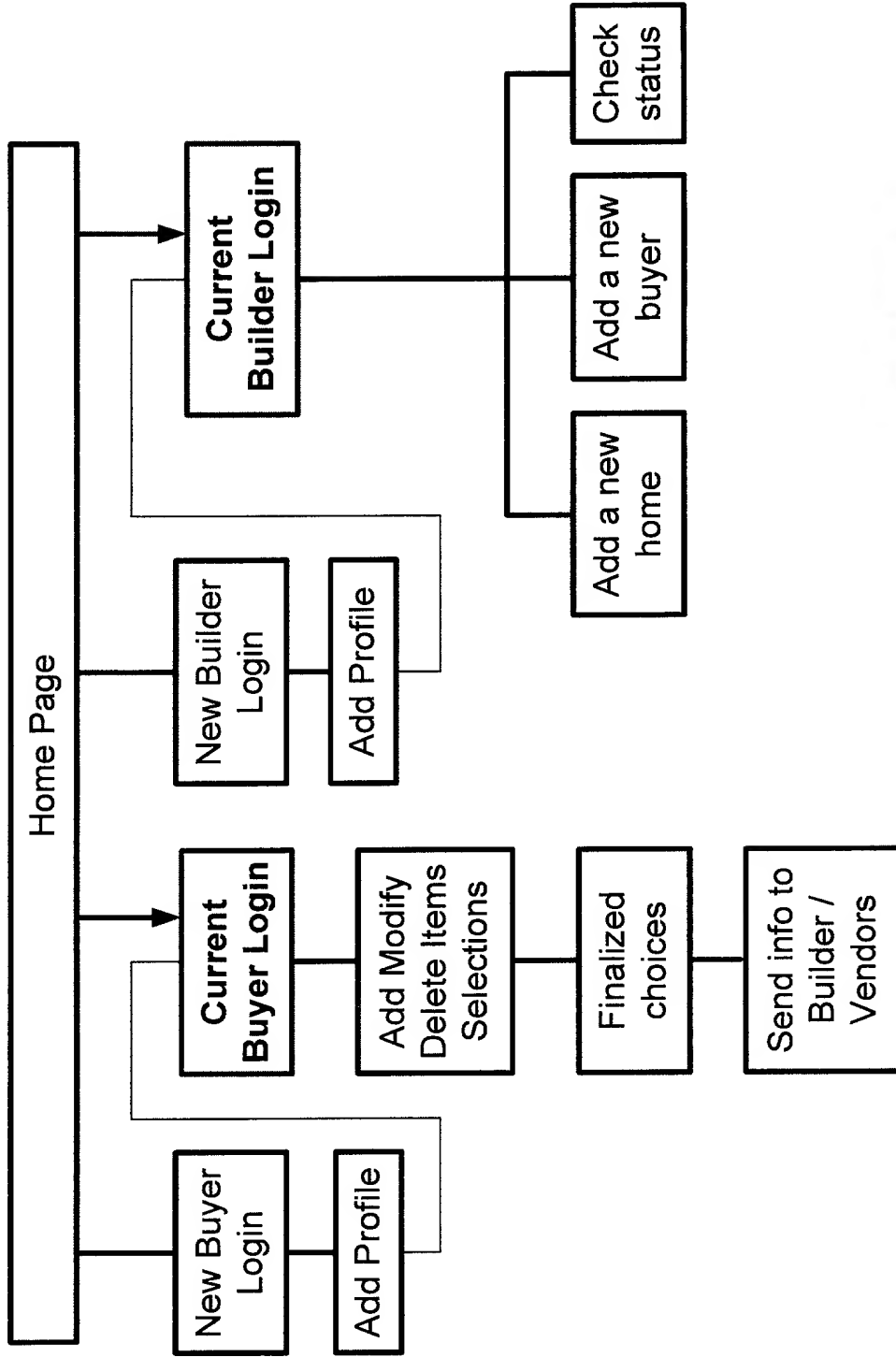
278

FIG. 15

0470-638450

High Level Overview

Version 1



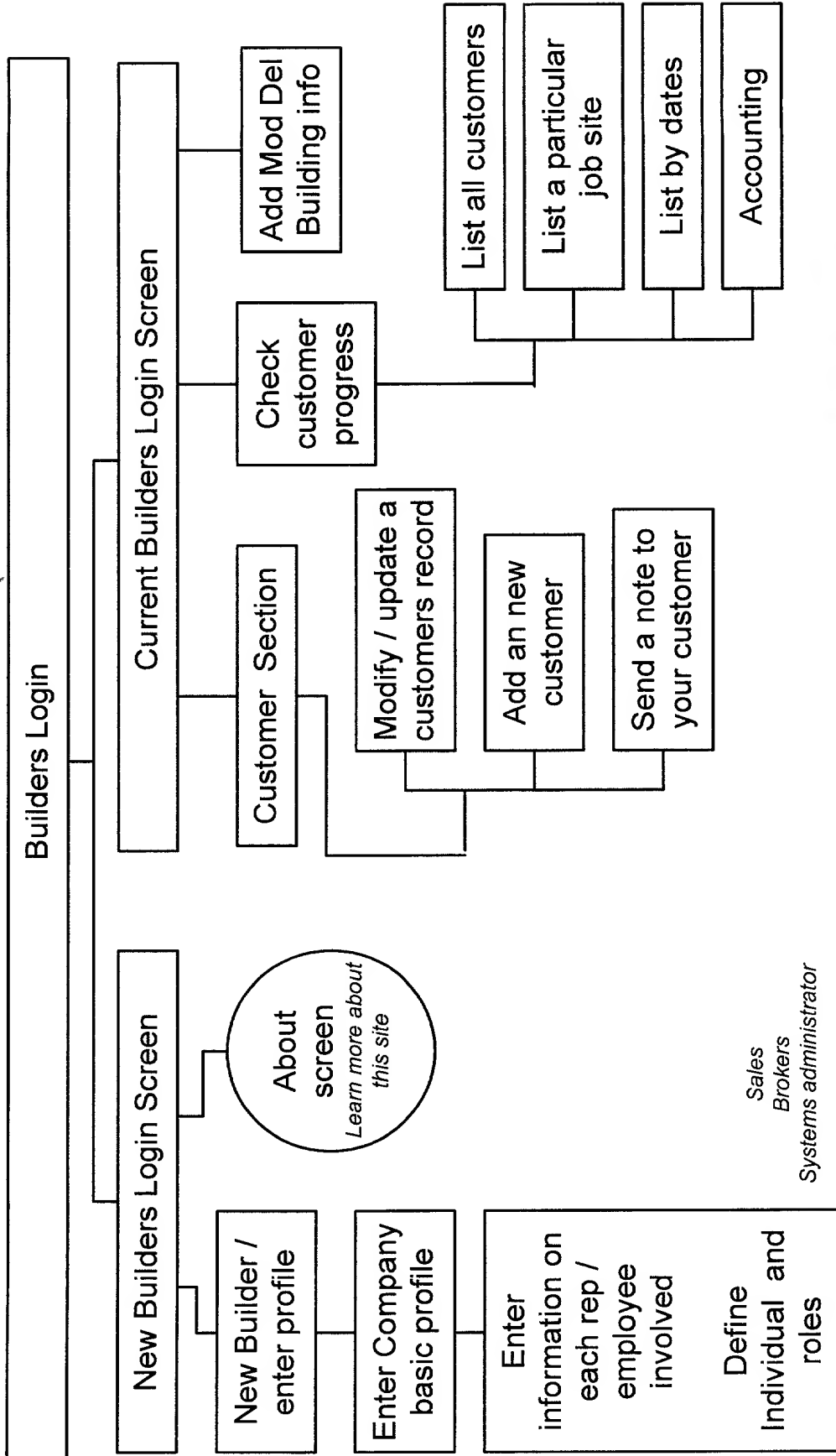
Overview

OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

1/6/00

Builders Logon

Version 1



Builders Side

 OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

Phase 1

Builders New User Setup

Ver 1

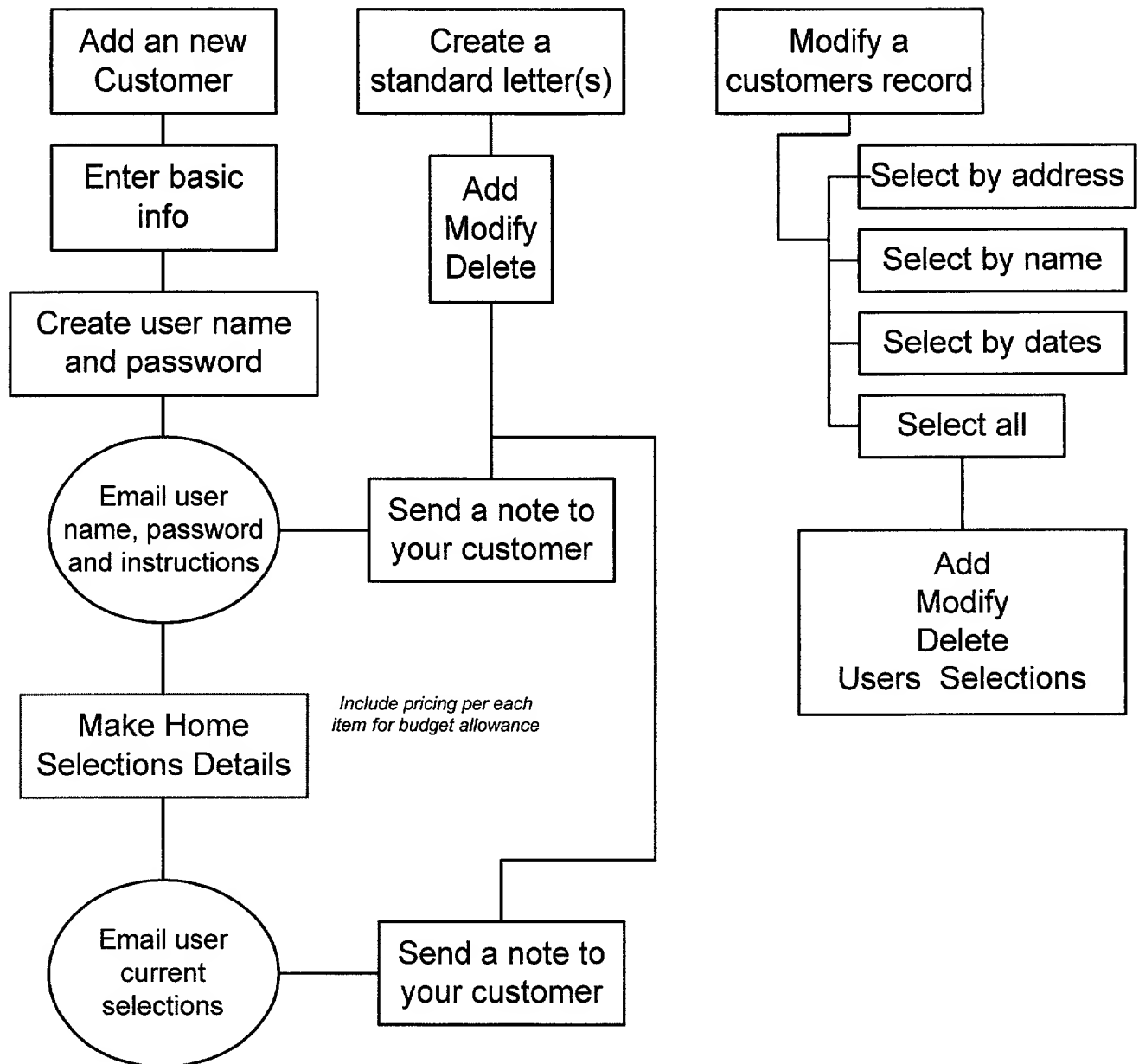


FIG. 18

Builders Side

OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

Phase 1

New Home Buyer Login

Version 1.1

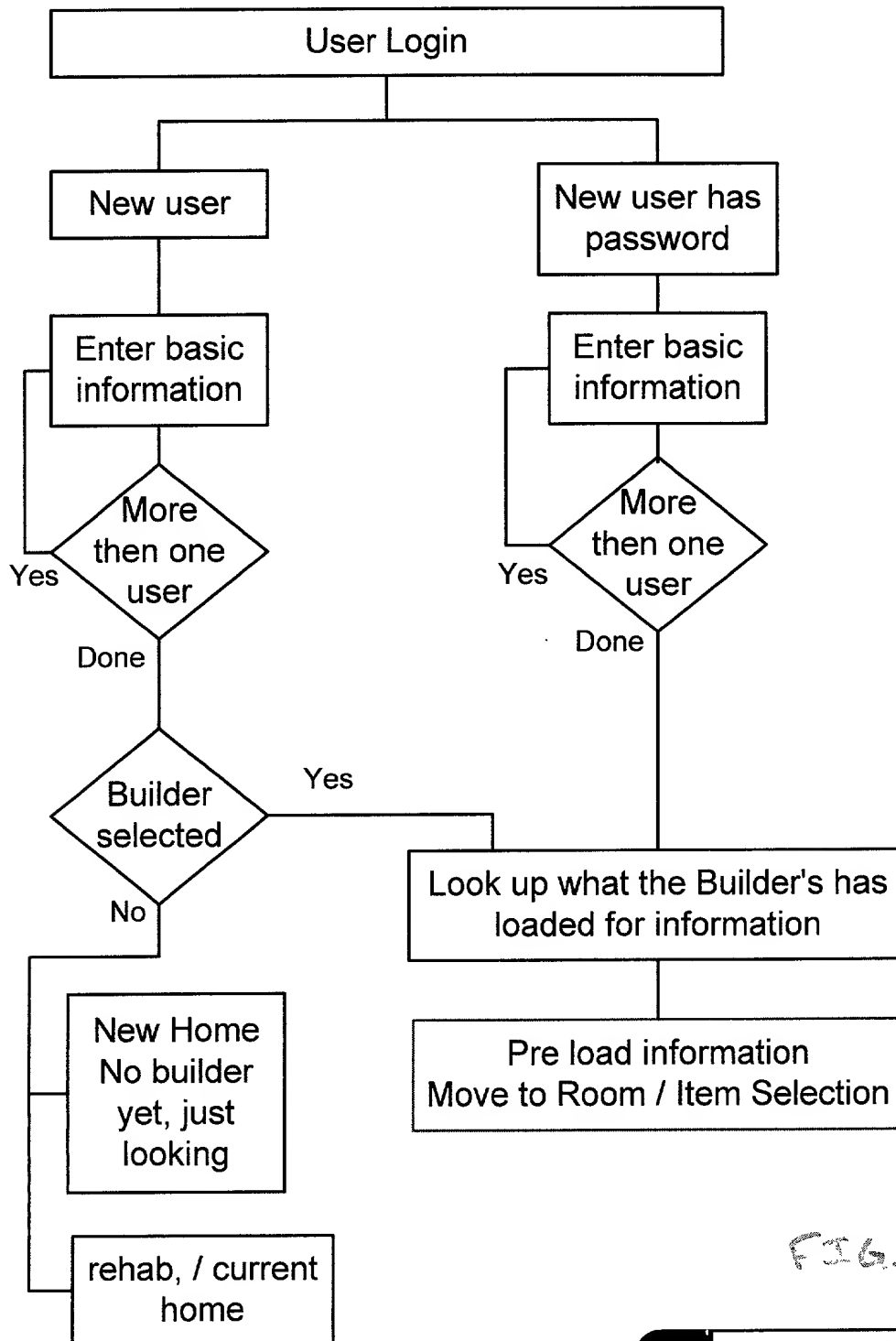


FIG. 10

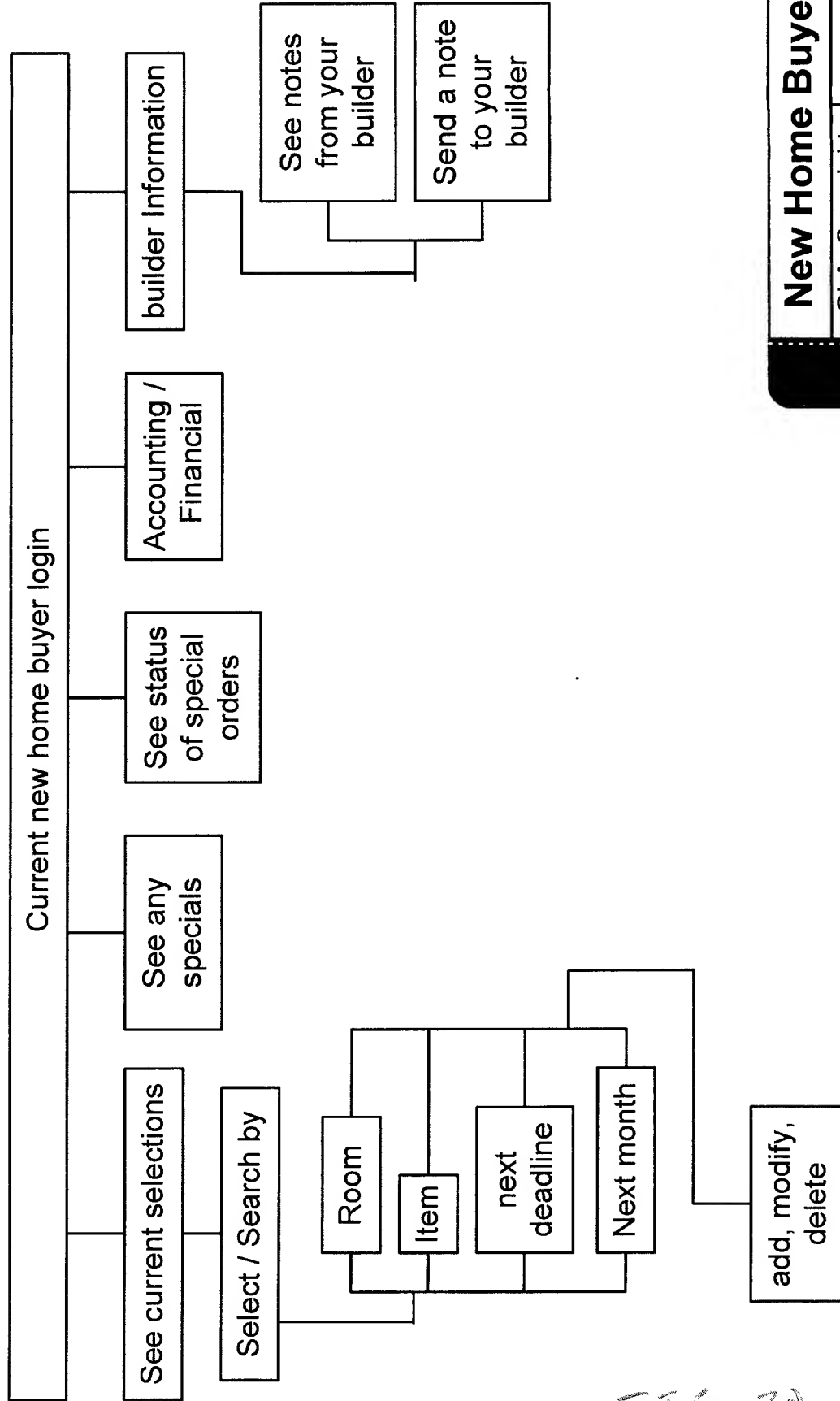
Home Buyer

 OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

Phase 1

Current Home Buyer User Login

Version 1



New Home Buyer

OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

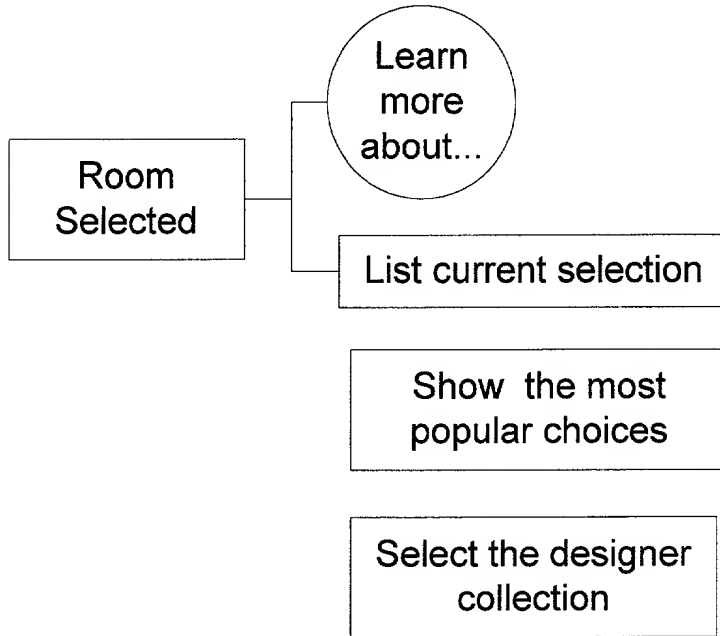
Phase 1

FIG. 20

1/6/00

Find / List / Select

Version 1



522
↑

FIG. 2.1

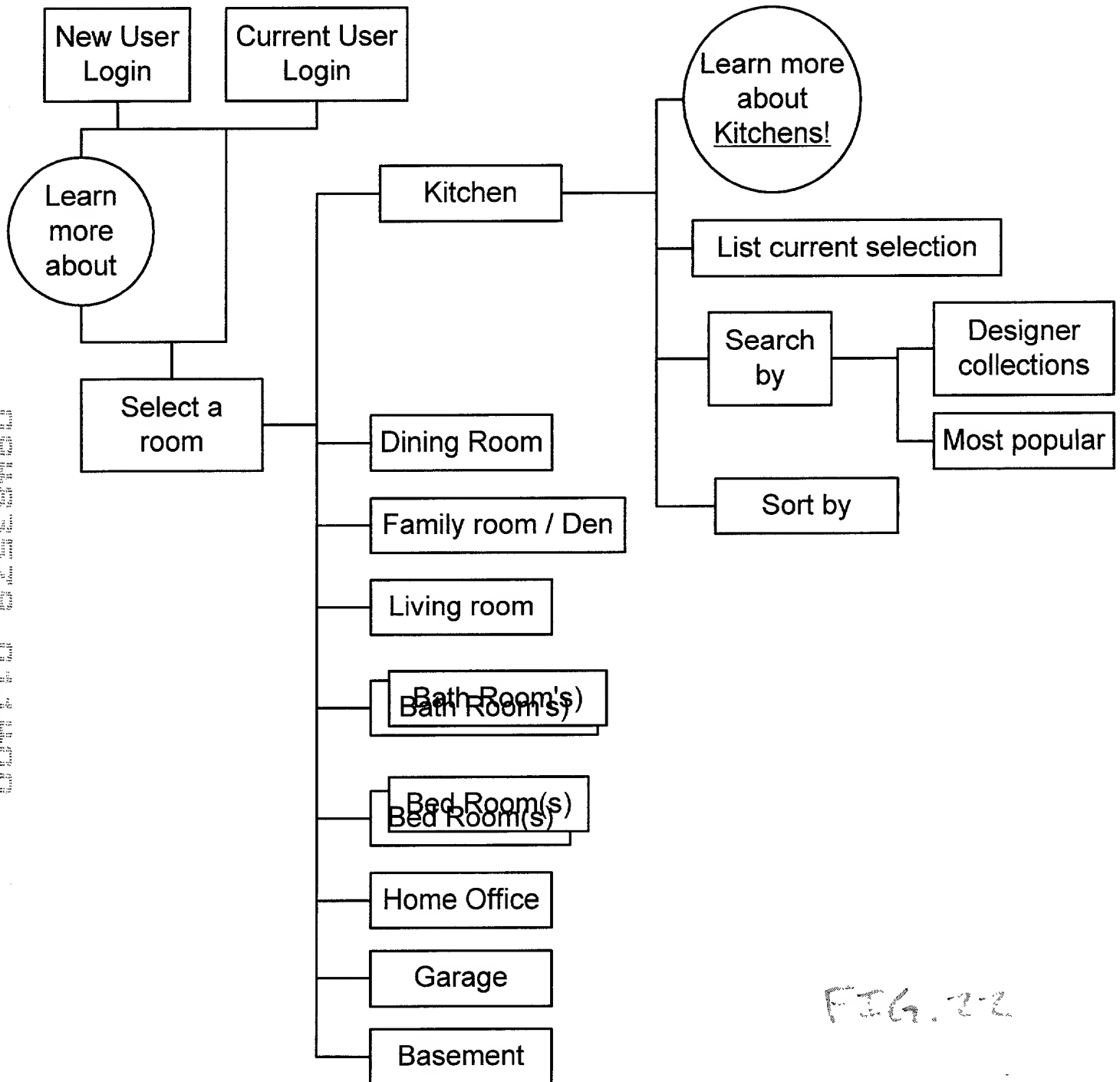
Item Selection

OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

1/6/00

Room Selection

Version 1



Room Selection

OLA, Copyright
2000, confidential

1/6/00

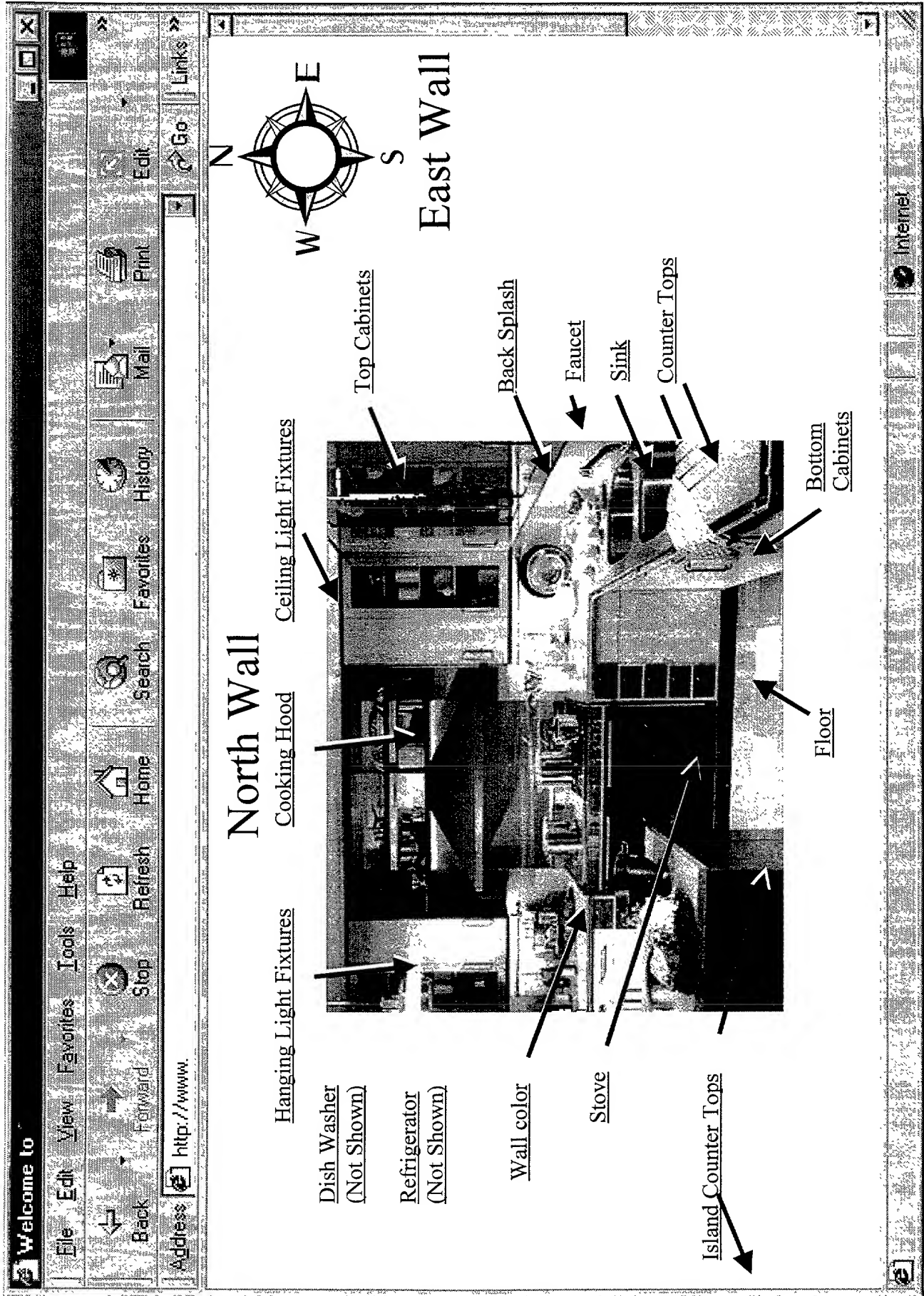


FIG. 23



Kitchen Item Selection

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

Kitchen	Appliance Stove Refrigerator Dishwasher Sink Counter Top Cabinets Base Cab Wall Cab Flooring Wall Covering
Dining	
Den	
Living	
Bed	
Bath	

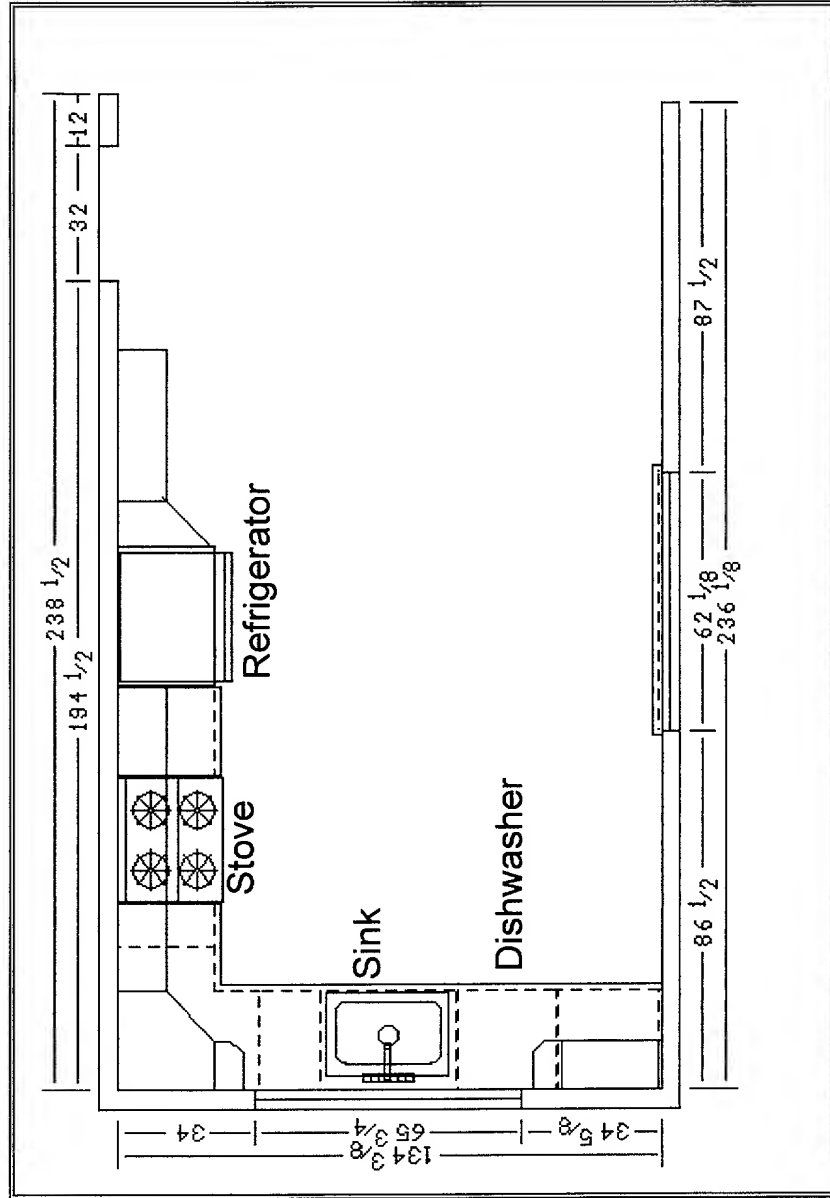


FIG. 24



Kitchen Item Selection

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

Kitchen	Appliance Stove <u>Refrigerator</u> Dishwasher Sink Counter Top Cabinets Base Cab Wall Cab Flooring Wall Covering	<div>302 ✓</div> <div>304 ✓</div> <div>306 ✓</div> <div>308 ✓</div> <div>310 ✓</div>	<div>Style</div> <div>Any</div> <div>Colonial</div> <div>Commercial</div> <div>Contemporar</div> <div>Country</div> <div>Modern</div> <div>Colonial</div> <div>Retro</div> <div>Traditional</div> <div>Victorian</div>	<div>Design</div> <div>Any</div> <div>Martha</div> <div>EB</div>	<div>Price</div> <div>Any</div> <div>Standard</div> <div>Level 1</div> <div>Level 2</div> <div>Deluxe</div> <div>Low</div> <div>Med</div> <div>High</div>	<div>Material</div> <div>Any</div> <div>Wood</div> <div>Brass</div> <div>Steal</div> <div>Chrome</div> <div>Caremarl</div>	<div>Color</div> <div>Any</div> <div>White</div> <div>Blue</div> <div>Beige</div> <div>Green</div> <div>Brown</div>
---------	---	--	--	--	---	--	---

Search

300
FIG. 25

312



Kitchen Item Selection

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

Kitchen	Appliance Stove <u>Refrigerator</u> Dishwasher Sink Counter Top Cabinets Base Cab Wall Cab Flooring Wall Covering	Style Any County Modern Rustic	Design Any Martha Eddy	Price Any Standard Level 1 Level 2 Deluxe Low Med High	Material Any Wood Brass Steel Chrome Caremark	Color Any White Blue Beige Green Brown
Dining						
Den						
Living						
Bed						
Bath						

312

Search

300

FIG. 26



Kitchen Item Selection

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

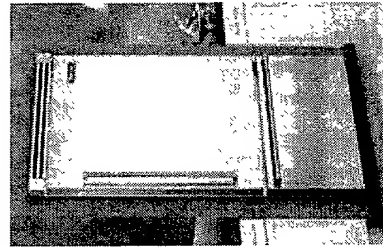
Kitchen	Style	Design	Price	Material	Color	Search
Dining	<input type="text" value="County"/>	<input type="text" value="Any"/>	<input type="text" value="Standard"/>	<input type="text" value="Any"/>	<input type="text" value="White"/>	
Den						
Living						
Bed						
Bath						



TPX24PPBWW - GE Profile Performance™ 23.5 Cu. Ft. CustomStyle™ Side-By-Side Refrigerator with Dispenser

See More Info ← 322

Add to my Cart ← 326



The VCBB Built-in, 36" wide, Bottom-mount Refrigerator/Freezer

See More Info

Add to my Cart

328 SUB-ZERO
SEE MORE INFO

320

FIG. 27



Kitchen Item Selection

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

342 344 346 332

Style	Design	Price	Material	Color	Search
<input type="text" value="County"/>	<input type="text" value="Any"/>	<input type="text" value="Standard"/>	<input type="text" value="Any"/>	<input type="text" value="White"/>	

Appliance	Stove	Refrigerator	Dishwasher	Sink
Counter Top	Cabinets	Base Cab	Wall Cab	
Flooring	Wall Covering			



**TPX24PPBWW - GE Profile Performance™
23.5 Cu. Ft. CustomStyle™ Side-By-Side
Refrigerator with Dispenser**

- Trimless Model
- 23.5 cu ft (Fresh Food 14.48 cu ft / Freezer 9.05 cu ft)
- Exclusive Water by Culligan™ Provides Cleaner, Better Tasting Water and Ice through the LightTouch! Dispenser (Chilled Water, Cubed and Crushed Ice)
- Smart Storage System (1 Adjustable Humidity Crisper, 1 Convertible Meat Keeper with Cold Control and 1 Adjustable Humidity Snack Pan)
- 3 Adjustable Glass Fresh Food Cabinet Shelves (2 Slide Out, Spill Proof)
- Quick Space™ Shelf
- Adjustable Modular Gallon Door Bins

Add to my Cart

326 330 336 28



OFF TO "S.E.E.S.H.D"

Link to manufacture sites

[Home Page](#) | [See current selections](#) | [Help](#)

- [Concrete](#)
- [Materials Marketing](#)
- [Natural Stone](#)
- [Wood-Plastic](#)
- [Arcat](#)
- [Corian](#)
- [Dryvit Systems](#)
- [Formica Corporation](#)
- [Epyon Molded Millwork](#)
- [Stevens Roofing Systems](#)
- [Wilsonart](#)
- [Doors-Windows](#)
- [Hurd](#)
- [Kolbe & Kolbe](#)
- [Loewen](#)
- [Marvin](#)
- [Pella](#)
- [Simpson Door Equipment](#)
- [Grohe America](#)
- [Kohler](#)
- [Moen](#)
- [Sub-Zero Freezer Electrical](#)
- [H. A. Framburg](#)
- [Lamphouse](#)
- [Lutron Electronics](#)
- [Leviton](#)
- [Residential Cabling](#)

HOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

PRODUCTS

CONTACT US

SUB-ZERO GALLERY

TRADE

QUINTESSENTIAL SUB-ZERO

DISTRIBUTOR LOCATOR

SUB-ZERO

TASTE SOMETHING NEW (CLICK HERE)

TRADE Designer Specs

GALLERY

PRODUCTS

340
FIG. 29



Room Selection

Home | Help | Send note to builder | See selections needed to be made | See selections need by date

344 346

Kitchen



Dining



Den



Living



Bed



Bath



Home Office



Pantry



Garage



Basement



Status Ledger

☐ No Selection made

☒ Some Selection are made

☒ Selection made but not final

☒ Selections are needed ASAP

☒ Done

352

350

FIG. 30



Selections

Home | Help | Send note to builder | See selections needed to be made | See selections need by date

☒ Kitchen

☐ Dining

☐ Den

☒ Living

☒ Bed

☒ Bath

☒ Home Office

☐ Pantry

☐ Garage

☒ Basement

Floor

Walls

Counters

Appliances

Electrical

Make your final floor selection by March 15th 2000

370
Item

Oak Plank

372

Dark Oak

364

Carpet 123

366

Carpet 444

374

Options

Standard

Standard1

Upgrade 1

Upgrade 2

Upgrade 1

Upgrade 2

Upgrade 1

Upgrade 2

Credit/Value

No Charge

No Charge

No Charge

+ \$500

+ \$500

+ \$650

+ \$650

Current Selection

(X) Yes () No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

more info



Final Selection
Done!

Don't
Make final

Get expert help

See the most
popular choices

See compare and
check your budget

360

FIG. 31

352

368



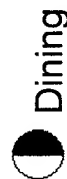
Selections

Home | Help | Send note to builder | See selections needed to be made | See selections need by date

372



Kitchen



Dining



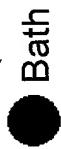
Den



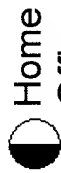
Living



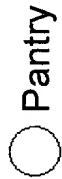
Bed



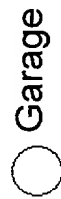
Bath



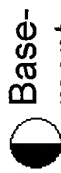
Home Office



Pantry



Garage



Basement

352

Make your final floor selection by March 15th 2000

Walls
Counters
Appliances
Electrical
CABINETS

Item
Rosetta

Options
Standard

Credit/Value
No Charge

Current Selection
(X) Yes () No () Maybe

384

Rain Forest

Standard

No Charge

() Yes (X) No () Maybe

Rain Forest

Tera

Standard

No Charge

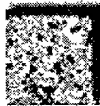
() Yes (X) No () Maybe

314

Don't
Make final

Final Selection
Done!

382



Rosetta



Rain Forest



Terra

Get expert help

See the most
popular choices

See compare and
check your budget

380
Fig. 32



Room Selection

Home | Help | Send note to builder | See selections needed to be made | See selections need by date

Kitchen	Cabinets
Make your final floor selection by March 15 th 2000	

Dining
Den
Living
Bed
Bath

WALLS
COUNTERS
APPLIANCES
ELECTRICAL
CABINETS

392

394

396

398

400

DON'T
MAKE FINAL

FINAL SELECTION
DONE

390
FILE 33



Current Selections

[Home](#) | [Help](#) | [Send note to builder](#) | [See selections needed to be made](#) | [See selections need by date](#)

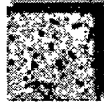
Kitchen

412 344 346

Counter
Cabinet
Floor

Item Desc Options Budget Price Net Price Chg.

Counter Rossetta Upgrade1 \$1,000 \$1200 \$200 Extra

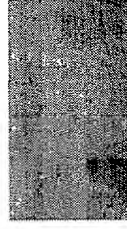


Rosetta



Cabinet Dixie Standard \$ Include \$ Included

Floor Cherry Standard \$ Include \$ Included



416

410
FIG. 34

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

That my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

That I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **BUILDERS ON-LINE ASSISTANT**

the specification of which (check one)

(X) is attached hereto.

() was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____

and was amended on _____

(if applicable)

That I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claim, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

That I acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

That I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

☐☐

Yes

No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐☐

Yes

No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

That I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

United States Application(s)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)-(Patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)-(Patented, pending, abandoned)

That all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the following attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to WELSH & KATZ, LTD., 120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone No. (312) 655-1500:

<u>Attorney</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>
A. Sidney Katz	24,003
Richard L. Wood	22,839
Jerold B. Schnayer	28,903
Eric C. Cohen	27,429
Joseph R. Marcus	25,060
Gerald S. Schur	22,053
Gerald T. Shekleton	27,466
James A. Scheer	29,434
Daniel R. Cherry	29,054
Edward P. Gamson	29,381
Kathleen A. Rheintgen	34,044
Thomas W. Tolpin	27,600
Jon P. Christensen	34,137
Eric D. Cohen	38,110
Walter J. Kawula, Jr.	39,724
Philip D. Segrest, Jr.	39,021
Mitchell J. Weinstein	37,963

Full name of sole or one
joint inventor:

Bruce A. Fogelson

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Residence and Post Office Address:

2501 N. Lincoln, #225

Chicago, Illinois 60614

Citizenship:

United States

Address for Correspondence:

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 South Riverside Plaza
22nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Full name of additional
joint inventor, if any:

Joel M. Fogelson

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Residence and Post Office Address:

Citizenship:

Full name of additional
joint inventor, if any:

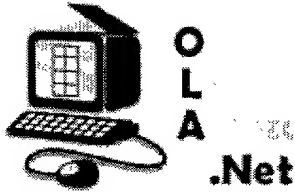
Cary Pearlman

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Residence and Post Office Address:

Citizenship:



Welcome to your On-Line Assistant

Home buyer Login
 New User
 Current user
 I am redoing my own home
 I am just looking as a visitor

Builder Login
 Current Builder
 New Builder

About this site

Contact us

***Where building your dream home is
 easier they you think!!!***

This site is designed to help you make the best decision and selection on your new home. This site will allow you to make, edit and track all of your selection. It will help to narrow down your selections as well as to inform you on your options, designer choices, and further information.

Once your choices are all made the information will be sent to "www.HomeHomePage.com" to keep track of your all of your manufacturer warranties, helping you enjoy your home for years to come.

I'm Sorry, we are still under construction!

APPENDIX I



Welcome to your On-Line Assistant

New Users please fill out the following:

To help server you better please tell us about yourself

About this site

Contact us

What is your current mailing address?

First Name

Last Name

Address

City

State AL IL WI

Zip

Phone

Email

What would you like to do on this site ?

Make your selection for your new home

Build your dream home

Remodel your current home

Just take a look around

Enter your comments in the space provided below:

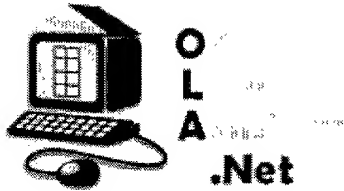
To access this system please enter your password :

Password

Re-Enter

Don't distribute our information to any manufacture.

[NEXT SCREEN](#)



Welcome to your On-Line Assistant

New Users please fill out the following:

Did your builder give you a Home ID

About this site

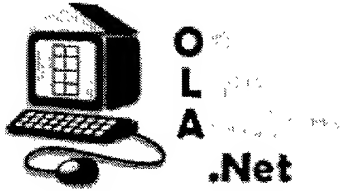
Yes No

Contact us

If yes please enter it here:

[NEXT SCREEN](#)

OLA.Net



Welcome to your On-Line Assistant

Reports

- Current selections
- What is needed next
- Whole project
- Budget VS actual

Selections

- Based on timeframe
- By room
- By color scheme

Communicate via Email

- Your builder
- Our designers
- Manufacture

Status Check

- See notes posted

About this site

Contact us

What's new: Welcome back, you currently have 2 note from your builder and you need to make 10 Item selections by 5/1/2000

[SEE A PHOTO NEXT SCREEN](#)

[SEE A BLUE PRINT](#)

[SEE AN ARTIST RENDERING](#)

004763 "546660



[Product Selection](#) > [Room](#) > [Kitchen](#) > [Photo](#)

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#)

Item Selection

by Room

Kitchen

Interior:

- Floor
- Walls
- Bottom Cabinets
- Top Cabinets
- Back Splash
- Ceiling Lights
- Cooking Hood
- Hanging Light
- Fixture
- Sink
- Faucet

Appliances

- Dish Washer
- Refrigerator
- Stove

Reports List by

- Timeframe
- Room
- Color scheme
- Other

Communicate via Email

- Your builder
- Designers
- Manufacturer

Status Check

- See notes posted

About this site

Contact us

North Wall

[Hanging Light Fixtures](#)

[Cooking Hood](#)

[Ceiling Light Fixture](#)

[Dish Washer](#)
[\(Not Shown\)](#)

[Refrigerator](#)
[\(Not Shown\)](#)

[Wall color](#)

[Stove](#)

[Island Counter Tops](#)

[Floor](#)

[Bottom Cabine](#)



[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About](#)

www.OnLineAssistant.net, (773) 528-90
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confident

[SEE A BLUE PRINT](#)

[SEE AN ARTIST RENDERING](#)

[NEXT SCREEN](#)

1/14/00 11:20 AM

[Product Selection](#) > [Room](#) > [Kitchen](#) > [Blue Pri](#)

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#) |

Item Selection

by Room

Kitchen

Interior:

- ☐ Floor
- ☐ Walls
- ☐ Bottom Cabinets
- ☐ Top Cabinets
- ☐ Back Splash
- ☐ Ceiling Lights
- ☐ Cooking Hood
- ☐ Hanging Light
- ☐ Fixture
- ☐ Sink
- ☐ Faucet

Appliances

- ☐ Dish Washer
- ☐ Refrigerator
- ☐ Stove

Reports List by

- ☐ Timeframe
- ☐ Room
- ☐ Color scheme
- ☐ Other

Communicate via Email

- ☐ Your builder
- ☐ Designers
- ☐ Manufacturer

Status Check

- ☐ See notes posted

About this site

Contact us

www.OnLineAssistant.net (773) 528-9077
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confidential

SEE A PHOTO NEXT SCREEN

SEE AN ARTIST RENDERING

NEXT SCREEN

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Median	Q1	Q3	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis	Shapiro-Wilk	Normality
Age	35.2	12.5	18	65	32	25	40	30	0.15	2.5	0.95	Normal
Gender	1.2	0.4	1	2	1	1	1	1	0.05	0.5	0.98	Normal
Marital Status	2.1	0.8	1	3	2	1	3	2	0.10	1.5	0.92	Normal
Education	15.5	2.5	10	20	14	12	16	13	0.20	3.0	0.90	Normal
Income	4500	1500	1000	10000	3500	2000	5500	3000	0.30	4.0	0.85	Normal
Occupation	1.5	0.5	1	3	1	1	2	1	0.05	0.5	0.98	Normal
Health Status	2.5	0.5	1	3	2	2	2	2	0.05	0.5	0.98	Normal
Stress Level	3.5	1.0	1	5	3	2	4	3	0.15	2.5	0.95	Normal
Life Satisfaction	4.0	0.8	1	5	4	3	5	4	0.10	1.5	0.92	Normal
Work-Life Balance	3.0	0.7	1	5	3	2	4	3	0.15	2.5	0.95	Normal
Family Support	4.5	0.6	1	5	4	4	5	4	0.05	0.5	0.98	Normal
Community Involvement	2.0	0.5	1	3	2	1	3	2	0.10	1.5	0.92	Normal
Personal Growth	3.8	0.9	1	5	3	2	4	3	0.15	2.5	0.95	Normal
Overall Well-being	4.2	0.7	1	5	4	3	5	4	0.10	1.5	0.92	Normal



Product Selection > Room > Kitchen > Rende

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On-line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#)

Item Selection

by Room

Kitchen

Interior:

- Floor
- Walls
- Bottom Cabinets
- Top Cabinets
- Back Splash
- Ceiling Lights
- Cooking Hood
- Hanging Light
- Fixture
- Sink
- Faucet

Appliances

- Dish Washer
- Refrigerator
- Stove

Reports List by

- Timeframe
- Room
- Color scheme
- Other

Communicate via Email

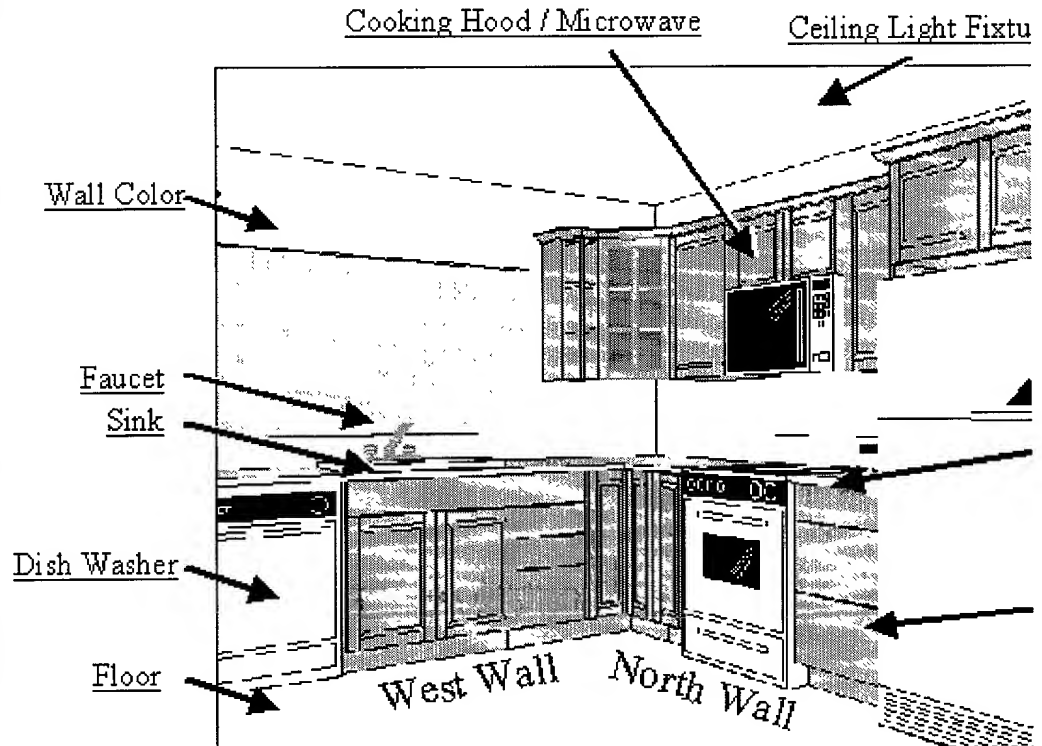
- Your builder
- Designer
- Manufacturer

Status Check

- See notes posted

About this site

Contact us



www.OnLineAssistant.net, (773) 528-90
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confident

SEE A PHOTO NEXT SCREEN

SEE A BLUE PRINT

NEXT SCREEN

Item Selection > Room > Kitchen > Refrigerat

Style	Designer collections	Price	Material	Key words	Search
Any Colonial Commercial Country Modern Colonial Retro Traditional Victorian	Any Designer 1 Designer 2 Martha Stewart Eddie Bauer Pottery Barn	Any Standard Upgrade Luxury	Any Wood Brass Luxury Steel Chrome		

[Current Selections](#) | [Best Deal](#) | [Specials](#) | [Most popular models](#) | [Builders choices](#) |
[What to know about refrigerators](#) | [How to maintain your new refrigerator](#) | [Consumer rep](#)

Item Selection Notes:

With your current kitchen, your limitations are: **Width 35.5 inches**
 You have **2** other models selected
 A Final selection is need by **June 15th, 2000**

by Room**Kitchen****Interior:**

- ☐ Floor
- ☐ Walls
- ☐ Bottom Cabinets
- ☐ Top Cabinets
- ☐ Back Splash
- ☐ Ceiling Lights
- ☐ Cooking Hood
- ☐ Hanging Light
- ☐ Fixture
- ☐ Sink
- ☐ Faucet

Appliances

- ☐ Dish Washer
- ☒ Refrigerator
- ☒ Stove

Reports List by

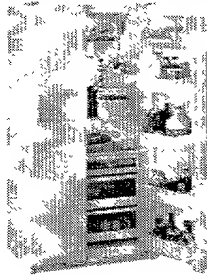
- Timeframe
- Room
- Color scheme
- Other

Communicate via Email

- Your builder
- Designer
- Manufacturer

Status Check

- See notes posted

About this site**Contact us****Photo****Specifications****Info****Kenmore 59532**

**Kenmore 59532
Side-by-Side**

25.2 cu. ft.
 Ice & Water
 Fresh Food Vol. = 15.4 cu. ft.
 Freezer Vol. = 9.8 cu. ft.
 Width = 35 1/2 in.
 Height to Top of Case = 68 7/8 in.

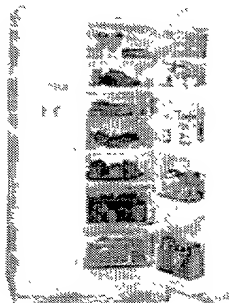
This Kenmore features ice & water filtration, thru-the-door dispenser, glass spill-proof shelves and adjustable gallon door storage.

[More Information](#)

[See an online brochure](#)

[Have the manufacturer send me a brochure](#)

[Send this info to some else](#)

Frigidaire FRS26HW

**Frigidaire FRS26HW
Side-by-Side**

25.7 cu. ft.
 Ice & Water
 Fresh Food Vol. = 15.6 cu. ft.
 Freezer Vol. = 10.38 cu. ft.
 Width = 35 1/2 in.
 Height to Top of Case = 68 7/8 in.

This Gallery(tm) series model features glass Spillsafe(tm) shelves, built-in water filter, 4 gallon storage door bins, and a pizza shelf.

[More Information](#)

[See an online brochure](#)

[Have the manufacturer send me a brochure](#)

[Send this info to some else](#)

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About](#)

www.OnLineAssistant.net, (773) 528-90
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confident

NEXT SCREEN

www.OnLineAssistant.net, (773) 528-90
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confident



Reports > Room > W/Photos > My notes

[Find an item](#) |
 [My home](#) |
 [Help with selection](#) |
 [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) |
 [On line brochures](#) |
 [Resources & Links](#) |
 [About us](#)

Reports List by

Timeframe

Room

Color scheme

Packages

Other

Rating

Status

Price

Communicate via Email

Your builder

Designers

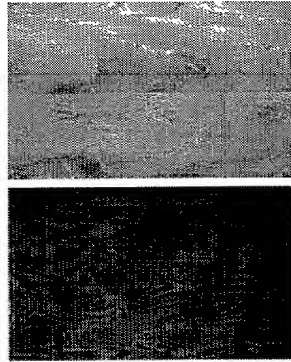
Manufacturer

About this site

Contact us

Room / Item Kitchen / Floor

Photo



Selection Status

Choice need by: June 15th, 2000
 Status: I'm almost positive
 Rating: 9
 Notes: Jim, looks nice with our dish

Pricing information

Standard
 Included in the
 Bermuda package

Choice need by: June 15th, 2000
 Status: maybe
 Rating: 8
 Notes: Jim, might look too dark

Standard
 Included in the
 Bermuda package

Kitchen / Wall



Choice need by: June 15th, 2000
 Status: I'm almost positive
 Rating: 10
 Notes: Simple, goes with everything

Standard
 Included in the
 Bermuda package

Choice need by: June 15th, 2000
 Status: I'm almost positive
 Rating: 7
 Notes:

Standard
 Included in the
 Bermuda package

Choice need by: June 15th, 2000
 Status: maybe
 Rating: 3
 Notes: Might be hard to make thing match

Standard
 Included in the
 Bermuda package

Kitchen / Cabinets



Choice need by: June 20th, 2000
 Status: I'm almost positive
 Rating: 10
 Notes: Might be hard to make thing match

Upgrade package 1



Choice need by: June 20th, 2000
 Status: maybe
 Rating: 10
 Notes: A bit too rustic

Upgrade package 1



Choice need by: June 20th, 2000
 Status: maybe
 Rating: 9
 Notes: Might be to dark but I like it

Upgrade package 1

www.OnLineAssistant.net (773) 528-9077
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confidential

[illegible]

Reports > Room > W/short descriptions> Finan

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#)

Reports List by

Home review

Builder: **Adler Builders**

Main contact: **Joe Adler @ 312.555.1212**

Closing Date: **June 10th, 2000**

Date for final selections : **February 28th, 2000**

Timeframe

Room

Color scheme

Packages

Other

Rating

Status

Price

Kitchen Interior:

Floor	Light Oak Plank	Incl
Wall	Light Cream	Incl
Cabinets Base	Up 1 Prairie	\$800
Cabinets Wall	Up 1 Prairie	\$500
Counter Top	Up 1 Coran Sunset	\$1,500

Appliances:

Dishwasher	GE 123213	Incl
Disposal	PowerScrub	Incl
Refrigerator	SubZero 342	\$4,000
Auto-Ice Maker	AIM1	\$100
Oven	Viking	\$3,000
Exhaust Hood	W/GE microwave	\$2,000

Sink

Stainless Steel	Standard	Incl
Faucet	Moen	Incl
Disposal	GR144	Incl

Total

Communicate via Email

Personal budget set : **\$15,000**

Actual cost of current selections: **\$11,900**

You are below your budget by: **\$3,100**

Your builder

Designers

Manufacturer

Mortgage section

Current Home Value	\$278,000
With Current Options	\$326,900
Current Deposit	\$50,000
Amount to Finance	276,900

	Term	Monthly
Bank One	15 Year	\$2,102
	30 Year	\$1,534
GMAC	15 Year	\$2,200
	30 Year	\$1,548

About this site

Contact us

www.OnLineAssistant.net (773) 528-9077
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confidential

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Median	Q1	Q3	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis	Shapiro-Wilk	Normality
Age	35.2	12.5	18	65	32	28	36	30	0.15	2.10	0.98	Normal
Gender	1.2	0.4	1	2	1	1	1	1	0.05	0.10	0.99	Normal
Marital Status	2.1	0.8	1	3	2	1.5	2.5	2	0.10	0.50	0.97	Normal
Education	12.5	2.1	9	16	12	11	13	12	0.12	1.80	0.99	Normal
Income	1500	500	500	3000	1200	800	1800	1000	0.18	2.50	0.96	Normal
Occupation	1.5	0.5	1	2	1	1	1	1	0.08	0.20	0.99	Normal
Health Status	2.5	0.5	1	3	2	2	2	2	0.02	0.05	0.99	Normal
Stress Level	3.2	1.1	1	5	3	2	4	3	0.10	1.50	0.98	Normal
Life Satisfaction	4.1	0.9	3	5	4	3.5	4.5	4	0.05	0.30	0.99	Normal
Resilience	3.8	1.0	2	5	3	3	4	3	0.12	1.90	0.97	Normal
Optimism	4.5	0.8	3	5	4	4	4	4	0.03	0.10	0.99	Normal
Emotional Stability	3.5	0.7	2	4	3	3	3	3	0.04	0.15	0.99	Normal
Self-Esteem	4.2	0.6	3	5	4	4	4	4	0.02	0.08	0.99	Normal
Life Satisfaction	4.1	0.9	3	5	4	3.5	4.5	4	0.05	0.30	0.99	Normal
Resilience	3.8	1.0	2	5	3	3	4	3	0.12	1.90	0.97	Normal
Optimism	4.5	0.8	3	5	4	4	4	4	0.03	0.10	0.99	Normal
Emotional Stability	3.5	0.7	2	4	3	3	3	3	0.04	0.15	0.99	Normal
Self-Esteem	4.2	0.6	3	5	4	4	4	4	0.02	0.08	0.99	Normal

Reports > Room > W/short descriptions> Finan

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#) |

Home reviewBuilder: **Adler Builders**Main contact: **Joe Adler @ 312.555.1212**Closing Date: **June 10th, 2000**Date for final selections : **February 28th, 2000****Reports List by**[Timeframe](#)[Room](#)[Color scheme](#)[Packages](#)[Other](#)[Rating](#)[Status](#)[Price](#)**Kitchen Interior:**

Floor

Light Oak Plank

Incl

Wall

Light Cream

Incl

Cabinets Base

Up 1 Prairie

\$800

Cabinets Wall

Up 1 Prairie

\$500

Counter Top

Up 1 Coran Sunset

\$1,500

Appliances:

Dishwasher

GE 123213

Incl

Disposal

PowerScrubbe

Incl

Refrigerator

SubZero 342

\$4,000

Auto-Ice Maker

AIM1

\$100

Oven

Viking

\$3,000

Exhaust Hood

W/GE microwave

\$2,000

Sink

Stainless Steel

Standard

Incl

Faucet

Moen

Incl

Disposal

GR144

Incl

Total

Personal budget set : \$15,000

Actual cost of current selections: \$11,900

You are below your budget by: \$3,100

Mortgage section

Current Home Value \$278,000

With Current Options \$326,900

Current Deposit \$50,000

Amount to Finance 276,900

	Term	Monthly
Bank One	15 Year	\$2,102
	30 Year	\$1,534
GMAC	15 Year	\$2,200
	30 Year	\$1,548

[Find an item](#) | [My home](#) | [Help with selection](#) | [Log out](#)
[What's new](#) | [On line brochures](#) | [Resources & Links](#) | [About us](#) |

www.OnLineAssistant.net (773) 528-9077
OLA, Inc. Copyright 2000 Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL